EXHIBIT 2

Case 2:25-cv-00456-KBH Document 1-4 Filed 01/27/25 Page 2 of 172

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County Trial Division Civil Cover Sheet		DECEM	DECEMBER 2024 E-Filing Number: 2412051470 DECEMBER 2024	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME JAMES SULLIVAN JR.		DEFENDANT'S NAME META PLATFOR INC.	META PLATFORMS, INC., ALIAS: F/K/A FACEBOOK,	
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 619 EDGLEY AVENUE GLENSIDE PA 19038		1 HACKER WAY	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN		DEFENDANT'S NAME FACEBOOK HOD	DEFENDANT'S NAME FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC	
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 619 EDGLEY AVENUE GLENSIDE PA 19038		1 HACKER WAY	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME	S NAME		DEFENDANT'S NAME FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC	
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS		1 HACKER WA	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	4 Charles and the second second	Petition Action	ppeal
AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY \$50,000.00 or less More than \$50,000.00	👿 Jury 🖳 S	avings Action	Commerce	
CASE TYPE AND CODE 2P - PRODUCT LIA	BILITY			
STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF	FACTION	を表現して	SOING	
RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST B	Y CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER)	PRO PROTHY DEC 23 2024 L. BREWINGTON	IS CASE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION ORDER? YES NO	
TO THE PROTHONOTA		or/Annallant: JAMES SI	JLLIVAN JR., ESTATE OF JOHN	
	the address set forth below.	MICHAEL	SULLIVAN	_
NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY KEVIN PATRICK. OBRIEN PHONE NUMBER (215) 663-0400 FAX NUMBER (215) 663-9112			ADDRESS 500 COTTMAN AVE. CHELTENHAM PA 19012	
SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. 313081		E-MAIL ADDRESS kobrien@sta	E-MAIL ADDRESS kobrien@stamponelaw.com	
SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY KEVIN OBRIEN		DATE SUBMITTED Monday, De	DATE SUBMITTED Monday, December 23, 2024, 03:17 pm	

FINAL COPY (Approved by the Prothonotary Clerk)

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER LAW

BY: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire

ID No.: 313081

BY: Tyler Stampone, Esquire

ID No.: 324400 500 Cottman Avenue Cheltenham, PA 19012

(215)663-0400



BY: Diandra Debrosse, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

Eli Hare, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

Grant Patterson, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

505 20th Street North, Suite 1500 Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Attorneys for Plaintiff

THIS IS A MAJOR JURY MATTER

James Sullivan, Jr. Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

619 Edgley Avenue Glenside, PA 19038 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

VS.

META PLATFORMS, INC. f/k/a

FACEBOOK, INC.

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

DECEMBER TERM, 2024

NO.:

AND

FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC.

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 1 Hacker Way Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

INSTGRAM, LLC 1 Hacker Way Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

SNAP, INC. 2772 Donald Douglass Loop North Santa Monica, CA 90405

AND

JOHN DOE INC. 1-5 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

JOHN DOE CORP 1-5 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA 1234 Market Street Philadelphia, PA, 19107

AND

ROBERT MILSON 1234 Market Street Philadelphia, PA, 19107

AND

BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. d/b/a BRYNER CHEVROLET 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

DBP PARTNERS, LP 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

DB Pete, Inc., 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

JOHN DOE, INC., 5-10 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

HOPKINS FORD, INC., 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC 620 Bustleton Pike Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053

AND

JOHN DOE CORP., 5-10
A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to
The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance person-ally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defense objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

Philadelphia Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service One Reading Center Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 238-1701

AVISO

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea a visado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suva sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte puede decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede pere dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

Lleva esta demanda a un abogado immediatamente. Si no tiene abogado o si no tiene el dinero suficiente de pagar tal servicio. Vaya en persona o llame por telefono a la oficina cuya direccion se encuentra escrita abajo para averiguar donde se puede conseguir asistencia legal.

Asociacion de Licenciados de Filadelfia Servicio de Referencia e Informacion Legal One Reading Center Filadelfia, PA 19107 (215) 238-1701

Case ID: 241202765

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER LAW

BY: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire

ID No.: 313081

BY: Tyler Stampone, Esquire

ID No.: 324400 500 Cottman Avenue Cheltenham, PA 19012

(215)663-0400

DICELLO LEVITT

BY: Diandra Debrosse, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

THIS IS A MAJOR JURY MATTER

James Sullivan, Jr. Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

619 Edgley Avenue Glenside, PA 19038 **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS** PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

VS.

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1 Hacker Way

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KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC 620 Bustleton Pike Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053

AND

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

- Plaintiff's decedent John Michael Sullivan was an individual and citizen of the 1. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who suffered a wrongful death on or about January 4, 2023.
- 2. Plaintiff, James Sullivan, Jr., was appointed Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan on April 10th, 2023. Said estate has a mailing address of 619 Edgley Ave. Glenside, PA 19038. A copy of the Letters of Administration are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 3. Plaintiffs Kathleen Sullivan and James Sullivan, Jr., are adult individuals with a service address of 619 Edgley Ave, Glenside, PA 19038 and who were at all times relevant hereto the parents and natural guardians of Plaintiff's Decedent John Michael Sullivan.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA DEFENDANTS

- 4. Defendant, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware licensed to transact business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business and/or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.
- 5. Defendant, Facebook Holdings, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.

- 6. Defendant, Facebook Operations, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.
- 7. Defendant, Facebook Technologies, LLC, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.
- 8. Defendant, Instagram, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.
- 9. Defendant, SNAP, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business and/or a service address located at 2772 Donald Douglass Loop North, Santa Monica, CA 90405.
- 10. Defendant, JOHN DOE Inc., 1-5 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the design, coding, safety, testing, engineering, warnings, of the Social Media Applications Instagram and Facebook and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.
- 11. Defendant, JOHN DOE Corp 1-5 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the design, coding, safety, testing, engineering, warnings, of the Social Media Application SnapChat and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.

12. These Defendants may be referred to throughout this Complaint as "The Social Media Defendants."

THE SEPTA DEFENDANTS

- 13. Defendant, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority a/k/a SEPTA (and referred to herein as "SEPTA") is a municipal corporation, political subdivision and/or other Commonwealth Agency/entity organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its principal place of business or address for service located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.
- 14. Defendant Robert Milson, is identified as the engineer and/or operator who was in control of the movement of the train and who was at all times within the course and scope of his employment with SEPTA which struck the Plaintiff's Decedent and who has a place of business or address for service located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.
 - 15. These Defendants may be referred to herein as the "SEPTA Defendants."

THE PREMISES LIABILITY DEFENDANTS

- 16. Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.
- 17. Defendant, DBP Partners, LP, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

- 18. Defendant, DB Pete, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.
- 19. Defendant, JOHN DOE Inc., 5-10 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the management, maintenance, operations, security, cameras and which was otherwise in control of Bryner Chevrolet located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046 and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005
- 20. Defendant, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.
- 21. Defendant, Hopkins Ford, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.
- 22. Defendant, Kennedy Real Estate Associates, L.P., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or

other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

- 23. Defendant, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 620 Bustleton Pike, Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053.
- 24. Defendant, JOHN DOE Corp 5-10 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the management, maintenance, operations, security, cameras and which was otherwise in control of Kennedy Ford located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046 and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.
 - 25. These Defendants may be referred to as the "Premises Liability Defendants."
- 26. Venue is proper in Philadelphia County as one or more of the Defendants regularly conduct business in Philadelphia County. In particular, and without limitation to other Defendants, the Social Media Defendants have millions of users in Philadelphia County.
- 27. Venue is proper in Philadelphia County as SEPTA is a Commonwealth Party and because the local and principal office of SEPTA is located in Philadelphia County at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

28. Social media applications are products. They are designed, coded, engineered, manufactured, produced, assembled, and placed into the stream of commerce. They were designed to be used or consumed by the public as part of the regular business of social media companies,

including the Social Media Defendants. They are mass-marketed, designed to be used by billions of consumers, and designed and advertised in such a way to appeal to the general public and, in particular, adolescents.

- 29. Social media apps are akin to tangible products. When installed or used on devices, they have a definite appearance and location and are operated by a series of gestures, clicks, swipes, and user-interface actions. They are both personal, moveable, and downloadable.
- 30. According to Tristen Harris, a former Google Design Ethicist, social media product designers maximize capitalizing on user attention by "play[ing] your psychological vulnerabilities (consciously and unconsciously) against you in the race to grab your attention."
- 31. Algorithms play a vital role in the race for attention-using machine learning and data science to generate content based on the likelihood that the user will want to see the suggested content.²
- 32. Social media apps are designed to be addictive. Based upon their design, interactions with the apps can release large amounts of dopamine into a user's brain's reward pathway—much like highly-addictive substances.³

Tristan Harris, How Technology is Hijacking Your Mind – from a Magician and Google Design Ethicist, MEDIUM (May 18, 2016) https://medium.com/thrive-global/how-technology-hijacks-peoples-minds-from-a-magician-and-google-s-design-ethicist-56d62ef5edf3.

Brent Barnhart, Everything you need to know about social media algorithms, SPROUT SOCIAL (Mar. 26, 2021), https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/.

Jim Zhao, et al., Risk Factors Associated with Social Media Addiction: An Exploratory Study, Frontiers in Psychology (Apr. 14, 2022), https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9046602/; Bruce Goldman, Addictive potential of social media, explained, STANFORD MEDICINE SCOPE (Oct. 29, 2021), https://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2021/10/29/addictive-potential-of-social-media-explained/; Jena Hilliard, New Study Suggests Excessive Social Media Use Is Comparable to Drug Addiction, Addiction Center (Sept. 4, 2019), https://www.addictioncenter.com/news/2019/09/excessive-social-media-use/; Sherri Gordon,

- 33. Perhaps most tellingly about the negative effects that social media has on children, tech moguls do not let their children use social media.⁴
- 34. Addiction to social media is by design: the more an individual interacts with an app, the more money the social media company makes. This is because each interaction with a user allows more opportunities to monetize that user's interactions to sell advertising access.⁵
- 35. The addictive quality of social media usage is further increased when users engage in mental rituals like following certain accounts or posting frequently to stay in touch with friends.⁶ social media increasingly replaces physical human interactions, leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and fear.⁷
- 36. Young people are particularly susceptible to social media addiction than older adults, and young people aged 16 to 25 have the highest rates of social media-related mental illness.8

Excessive Social Media Use Comparable to Drug Addiction, VERYWELLMIND (updated July 17, 2019), https://www.verywellmind.com/excessive-social-media-use-4690882.

Kristin Conrad, The Real Reason Tech Moguls Don't Let Their Kids on Social Media, THE LIST (Dec. 6, 2021, 9:07 AM EST), https://www.thelist.com/677684/the-real-reason-tech-moguls-dont-let-their-kids-on-social-media/.

Catherine Price, Trapped—the secret ways social media is built to be addictive (and what you can do to fight back), BBC SCIENCE FOCUS MAGAZINE (Oct. 29, 2018), https://www.sciencefocus.com/future-technology/trapped-the-secret-ways-social-media-is-built-to-be-addictive-and-what-you-can-do-to-fight-back/.

Werner Geyser, *The Real Social Media Addiction Stats for 2023*, INFLUENCER MARKETING HUB (updated Dec. 14, 2022), https://influencermarketinghub.com/social-media-addiction-stats/.

Alice G. Walton, Social Media May Make You Feel Socially Isolated: Study, FORBES (Mar. 6, 2017, 2:06 PM EST), https://www.forbes.com/sites/alicegwalton/2017/03/06/social-media-and-social-isolation-go-hand-in-hand-but-which-comes-first/?sh=23dcc79d1785.

Michael Simon, The Alarming Reality of Social Media Addiction Statistics in 2023, TECHREPORT (May 16, 2023, 3:02 AM), https://techreport.com/statistics/social-media-addiction-statistics/.

- 37. Chris Said, who has a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton University and who has worked at both Facebook and Twitter, noted that "[s]ocial media was like a nuclear bomb on teen social life I don't think there's anything in recent memory, or even distant history, that has changed the way teens socialize as much as social media."
- 38. Adolescents spend between five to seven hours per day on social media, and roughly half of them believe that they spend "too much time" on social media. 10
 - 39. Social media companies, including the Social Media Defendants, know all of this.
- 40. In a Harvard Business Review article discussing social media addiction, for example,

[P]sychologist Nicholas Kardaras explains that the people behind Facebook and Instagram not only designed their platforms to be wildly addictive but have kept them that way even amid mounting evidence that social media overuse has a horrible effect on people's mental and physical well-being. (The same is true for Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and most other social media.)¹¹

- 41. Social media companies, including the social media Defendants, specifically designed the platforms to be addictive.
- 42. In fact, Facebook's founding president, Sean Parker, "said publicly that the company set out to consume as much user time as possible. He claimed it was 'exploiting a

Michaeleen Doucleff, The truth about teens, social media and the mental health crisis, NPR (Apr. 25, 2023, 9:28 AM ET), https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/25/1171773181/social-media-teens-mental-health.

Tonya Mosley and Serena McMahon, Social Media Use Linked to Anxiety, Depression Among Teens, New Study Finds, WBUR (Jan. 9, 2020), https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/01/09/social-media-anxiety-depression-teens.

Kelsey Gripenstraw, Our Social Media Addiction, HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW (Nov.-Dec. 2022), https://hbr.org/2022/11/our-social-media-addiction.

vulnerability in human psychology.' 'The inventors,' he said, 'understood this consciously and we did it anyway.'"¹²

- 43. And social media apps like Snapchat are known as "ranked among the worst social media for mental health." ¹³
- 44. Social Media Defendants have known for a long time that their products—not only designed to be addictive—are addictive.
- 45. Former Facebook employee Sandy Parakilas, for example, described social media as "very similar to a slot machine," after he tried to stop using the service following leaving the company in 2012. Notably, he said "[i]t literally felt like I was quitting cigarettes." Furthermore,

[D]uring his year and five months at Facebook, he said, others had also recognized this risk.

"There was definitely an awareness of the fact that the product was habit-forming and addictive," he said.

"You have a business model designed to engage you and get you to basically suck as much time out of your life as possible and then selling that attention to advertisers." 16

Hilary Andersson, Social media apps are 'deliberately' addictive to users, BBC NEWS (July 4, 2018), https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-44640959.

Snapchat Addiction: The Darkside of a Popular Worldwide App, SOLSTICE (Oct. 26, 2017), https://solsticertc.com/snapchat-addiction-darkside-popular-worldwide-app/ (stating that "Snapchat ranked among the worst social media for mental health"). See also Julie Kelly, Confronting my daughter's addiction. To Snapchat., HUFFINGTON POST (updated Feb. 2, 2017), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/confronting-my-daughters-b-9138986.

Andersson, supra note 88.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id*.

46. The addictive nature of the applications and platforms is especially damaging for teens and young people. MRI brain studies show that students who use social media more frequently had increased activation points of their brain, "possibly making them more prone to peer feedback and hypersensitivity and possibly leading to changes in impulse control and regulation, according to ABC News chief medical correspondence Dr. Jennifer Ashton." ¹⁷

- 47. Social media usage's dopamine rush impacts the ventral striatum. Between the ages of ten and twelve, changes in the brain make social rewards—compliments on clothing or positive feedback—start to feel more satisfying. Specifically, receptors for oxytocin and dopamine multiply in a part of the brain called the ventral striatum, making preteens extra sensitive to attention and admiration from others. ¹⁸
- 48. Social media provides a mechanism to experience these "social rewards," giving the ventral striatum "a dopamine and oxytocin rush whenever we experience social rewards." And, "[r]ight next door to the ventral striatum lies the ventral pallidum, a region of the brain key for motivating action. These structures, which lie beneath the more recently evolved cortex, are older parts of the brain that drive instinctual behaviors." 20

Haley Yamada and Katie Kindelan, Social media use linked to brain changes in teens, study finds, ABC NEWS (Jan. 5, 2023, 10:55 AM), https://digital.abcaudio.com/news/social-media-use-linked-brain-changes-teens-study-finds.

Zara Abrams, Why young brains are especially vulnerable to social media, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (updated Aug. 25, 2022), https://www.apa.org/news/apa/2022/social-media-children-teens.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id*.

- 49. Teens continue to seek out approval and acceptance via these "social rewards" on social media and, if they do not receive them, become isolated and feel lonelier.²¹
- 50. Social media usage creates pressure and negative emotions, and can hinder healthy development of the prefrontal cortex. Social media platforms often promote a culture of comparison, where teenagers constantly compare themselves to their peers in terms of appearance, achievements, and social status. This continuous exposure to idealized and curated representations of others' lives can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and increased social anxiety. The prefrontal cortex, involved in self-reflection and emotional regulation, can be impacted by the constant pressure and negative emotions resulting from social comparison, potentially hindering healthy brain development.²²
- 51. Social media usage leads to impulsive decision-making and risk-taking behavior. The prefrontal cortex is responsible for regulating impulsive behaviors and assessing risks. Social media platforms often encourage instant gratification, impulsive reactions, and seeking novelty. This can contribute to a greater inclination towards impulsive decision-making and risk-taking behavior, as teenagers may engage in potentially harmful activities driven by the desire for social validation or the need to conform to online trends. Such behavior can negatively impact the

Cory Turner, 10 things to know about how social media affects teens' brains, NPR (Feb. 16, 2023, 12:01 PM ET), https://www.npr.org/2023/02/16/1157180971/10-things-to-know-about-how-social-media-affects-teens-brains; Written Testimony of Mitch Prinstein, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Science Officer, American Psychological Association, Protective Our Children Online, U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY (Feb. 14, 2023), https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2023-02-14%20-%20Testimony%20-%20Prinstein.pdf.

Michelle Achterberg, et al., Longitudinal associations between social media use, mental well-being and structural brain development across adolescence, DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (Apr. 2022), https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S18789293 22000329?via%3Dihub; Eveline A. Crone and Emily A. Konijn, Media use and brain development during adolescence, NATURE COMMUNICATIONS (Feb. 21, 2018), https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-03126-x.

development of the frontal cortex, which is responsible for evaluating consequences and exercising self-control.²³

52. Social media usage reduces face-to-face interactions, retarding the development of social skills. Excessive reliance on social media for social interactions can reduce face-to-face interactions, which are crucial for the development of social skills and emotional intelligence. The prefrontal cortex is involved in understanding and navigating social dynamics, including interpreting facial expressions, body language, and non-verbal cues. Reduced face-to-face interactions may limit opportunities for teenagers to develop and refine these social skills, potentially affecting the maturation of the frontal cortex, and possibly leading to the development of narcissistic tendencies.²⁴

The Known Prevalence of Sextortion on the Defendant's Social Media Application Products

- 53. The use of the Social Media Defendant's products by criminals and predators to target minors and teenagers is well documented and known. There has never been a larger pool of victims at the fingertips of these predators that through the use of the Defendant's products.
- 54. The victims themselves are often addicted and consumed by the product's use, and spend upwards of 8 hours a day on these products which makes them easy targets who are available at all times to be targeted by sexual scammers and extortionists.

Screen Addiction Affects Physical and Mental Health, PREMIER HEALTH (May 11, 2023), https://www.premierhealth.com/your-health/articles/health-topics/screen-addiction-affects-physical-and-mental-health.

Anthony Silard, Ph.D., The Role of Social Media in Our Empathy Crisis, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (July 11, 2022), https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-art-living-free/202207/the-role-social-media-in-our-empathy-crisis; Yamila Lezcano LHMC, How Social Media Affects Mental Health in Adolescents, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (Aug. 25, 2021), https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/becoming-resilient/202108/how-social-media-affects-mental-health-in-adolescents">https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/becoming-resilient/202108/how-social-media-affects-mental-health-in-adolescents.

- 55. The FBI has warned in reports that "financial sextortion . . . mainly occurs on the digital platforms where children are already spending their screen time, like social med, gaming websites, or video chat applications. On these platforms, predators often pose as girls of a similar age and use fake accounts to target young boys, deceiving them into sending explicit photos or videos. The predator then threatens to release the compromising materials unless the victim sends payment."²⁵
 - 56. This is precisely what happened to the Plaintiff's Decedent in the instant case.
- 57. Defendants have facilitated and exacerbated the risk of sextortion in the design of their product and its warnings by implementing defective product features that help sexual predators connect with adolescents, teenagers, children, and young people such as the Plaintiff's Decedent, including the lack of meaningful mechanisms to prevent sham accounts (or warn users of the existence of such accounts and scams), default-public profiles, matching and recommending connections between people with no known connection, from high risk areas for criminal activity such as, in this case, Nigeria, and promoting unsolicited messages and interactions from individuals from such areas, or individuals with numerous accounts under the same name, IP address, stock photos, re-used photos and/or images from other numerous other profiles, mass messages from accounts with these characteristics, particularly messages to diverse and far away geographic areas including those which are associated with children, adolescent and young people such as the Plaintiff's Decedent (in this case college campuses), messages from an unconnected

²⁵ International Law Enforcement Agencies Issue Joint Warning about global financial sextortion crisis, FBI (2023), https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/international-law-enforcementagencies-issue-joint-warning-about-global-financial-sextortion-crisis

account from such high-risk areas, and other features which easily identify the accounts as sham accounts indicative of criminal activity, sextortion at the top of that list.

- 58. Further, Defendant's applications do nothing to prevent, or even warn users about the dangers or risks of interacting with these accounts, or the dangers of sending nude pictures to such accounts which are suspicious for fraudulent activity, and provide no (or at least no easily accessible) design or warning mechanism to report such an account after a scam is initiated.
- 59. These individuals, criminals, and organizations have used the Social Media Defendants' applications for this very reason their design which renders them dangerous and defective, and the lack of warnings or other reasonable safety measures associated with these products provide the perfect conduit and opportunity to engage in sextortion and other fraudulent criminal schemes.
 - 60. The practice of sextortion and fraudulent activities is well known to the Defendants.
- 61. Despite knowledge of the pervasiveness of this problem and the existence of mass numbers of sham accounts being used for sextortion well in advance of the Plaintiff's Decedent's death, it was not until July of 2024, Meta deleted over 60,000 accounts operated by Nigerians which were linked to financial sextortion scams, and other crimes.²⁶
- 62. Meta identified these accounts, and disabled them using "a combination of new technical signals we've developed to help identify sextorters. . . the majority of these accounts had already been detected and disabled by our enforcement systems and this investigation allowed us

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²⁶ <u>https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-07-24/meta-removes-63-000-accounts-linked-to-sextortion-scammers?embedded-checkout=true</u>

to remove the remaining accounts and understand more about the techniques being used to improve our automated detection."²⁷

- 63. These "technical signals" were economically and technologically feasible and should have been implemented by the Social Media Defendants well in advance of the Plaintiff's Decedent's sextortion and death.
- 64. In simple terms, the Social Media Defendants have known for years about the prevalence of sextortion on their social media applications, yet have taken insufficient steps to design their product with safety features and/or warnings which would protect their users, including those such as the Plaintiff's Decedent who was a prototypical victim for these individuals, a young adult male who was a regular user of the Social Media Defendants' products.
- 65. There was nothing preventing these measures, design changes, and/or reasonable warnings from being implemented and integrated into the application products well in advance of January 4, 2023 as they were both technologically available, feasible, and necessary to make these products reasonably safe for use by adolescents, teens, children, and young people such as the Plaintiff's Decedent.
- 66. Without these measures, and other reasonable design changes and warnings to the users, the products were unreasonably dangerous and defective under Pennsylvania Law.
- 67. The failure to design their applications with sufficient protections which would prevent users from engaging in such pervasive and obviously illegal and fraudulent behavior was a substantial contributing factor and caused the Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death.

²⁷ https://about.fb.com/news/2024/07/combating-financial-sextortion-scams-from-nigeria/

Plaintiff's Decedent's Use of the Social Media Application Products

- 68. Plaintiff's Decedent has been a social media user for many years, in particular, Instagram, and SnapChat.
 - 69. He spent much of his spare time interacting online, as described generally above.
- 70. In January of 2023 the Plaintiff's Decedent was contacted by a third party through the Instagram app.
- 71. This third party was a scammer from Nigeria who was part of an organized criminal operation which targeted teenagers often minors through mass Instagram messages in an attempt to get them to "bite" at the bait they sent.
- 72. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's Decedent was targeted based upon his location at a college campus Kutztown University where he was a college student.
- 73. This conversation began when the Plaintiff's Decedent was targeted by an account from this Nigerian criminal group who were regular "Yahoo Boys", a loosely affiliated criminal group who made their living running these sextortion scams primarily through Instagram, Facebook and Snap.
- 74. This first contact made through Instagram Direct Message was one of thousands of messages sent out by the sextortionists, a common and well known tactic to the Social Media Defendants which is highly suspicious for illegal and fraudulent activity.
- 75. The Plaintiff's Decedent took the "bait" and responded to the scammers under the pretense that he was conversing with a young woman of his age who was looking to establish a relationship, and asking him for compromising photos of himself, which he eventually sent.
- 76. After the scam bait was laid on Instagram, the sextortionists suggested moving the conversation to Snap, where additional compromising photographs of the Plaintiff's Decedent were sent.

- 77. The reason the sextortionists moved the conversation to Snap was because of their knowledge of the defective and dangerous design of Snap where messages "disappear" and the lack of sufficient warnings to users such as the Plaintiff's Decedent that the messages contain nudity and the application lacks a nudity filter which would warn the user that they are sending messages to an account in an area suspicious and associated with criminal activity, scams, outside of the United States, or other warnings to the user of the prevalence of such scams so that the user may be warned about the information in the Social Media Defendants' possession that these photos may be used as part of a scam.
- 78. The conversation immediately turned to extortion upon receipt of the compromising photos, with the criminals incessantly threatening to release the photos to the Plaintiff's Decedent's college board on Facebook, harm the Plaintiff's family, and more.
- 79. The Plaintiff's Decedent attempted to send the money the sextortionists were requesting, but these attempts were stifled as the transfers were identified as fraudulent, so the Decedent could only send about \$2,800 (which itself was spread across 6 or 7 transactions) and the sextortionists were asking for more.
- 80. When the Plaintiff's Decedent could not send them further funds, these criminals used the Social Media Defendants' products to threaten Plaintiff's Decedent and his family, including threats to physically harm him, physically harm his family, and release the sensitive photos to Plaintiff's Decedent's family, friends and school.
- 81. After these further and unyielding threats from the sextortionists, the Plaintiff's Decedent went to a nearby SEPTA train track, where he was killed by a SEPTA train.
- 82. This action was the direct consequence of the horrible pressure, negative emotions, impulsive decision making, and the impact on the social development, emotions, mind and psyche

of the Plaintiff's Decedent as a result of the design of the Social Media Defendants' algorithms and addictive intention and design.

- 83. The Plaintiff's Decedent, a social media user for many years since his early adolescent age, including specifically Instagram, Facebook, and SnapChat, was deeply and negatively impacted by the design of these social media applications which were designed to maximize the amount of time a user is on the application in order to maximize their profits from each user.
- 84. Were it not for the impact the Social Media Defendants' application had on the Plaintiff's Decedent's social development, emotions, mind and psyche by way of its addictive design, and lack of warnings about these impacts, the Plaintiff's Decedent would not have suffered the harm he did as set forth herein.

Plaintiff's Decedent is Killed on SEPTA Tracks, by a SEPTA Train

- 85. The Plaintiff's Decedent then went to the train tracks which are owned and operated by the Defendant, SEPTA where he was killed by a train which was owned, operated and under the control of SEPTA and their engineer.
- 86. The train was travelling towards Noble Station in Jenkintown, where, upon information and belief, the train intended to stop just several hundred feet away from where the Plaintiff's Decedent was killed, and therefore should have, if the engineer had been operating the train carefully, been able to sound the horn, or otherwise stop the train in order to avoid striking the Plaintiff's Decedent.
- 87. He accessed these tracks by traversing the properties of John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown and Bryner Chevrolet of Jenkintown located at 1650 and 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA.

- 88. These properties are owned, managed, controlled maintained by one or more of the Premises Liability Defendants.
- 89. Because of the circumstances set forth above, the cause of death is in effect, a homicide.
- 90. Upon information and belief, the tracks were accessible by the Plaintiff's Decedent as a result of the failure to maintain and/or fence the area surrounding the tracks.
- 91. This area is known to be accessible by pedestrians as it is in the area of a high pedestrian area, a shopping center, several businesses, a residential neighborhood, and a commuter train station.
- 92. Upon information and belief there have been numerous complaints and near misses related to potential collisions involving SEPTA trains and pedestrians.
- 93. For example, on February 8, 2013, a 20-year-old Ardsley man was struck by a SEPTA commuter train in this area²⁸.
- 94. Again, on April 7, 2014, a 20-year-old man from Jenkintown was struck and killed in and/or about the area of the tracks in this area.²⁹
- 95. Again, on October 20, 2017, a pedestrian was struck and killed by a SEPTA train at or near the Jenkintown train station.³⁰
- 96. As there is a high degree of pedestrian activity in the area of the location where this incident occurred, Defendant SEPTA knew or should have known about this activity and should have taken reasonable steps to prevent access to this area of tracks, which they failed to do.

²⁸ https://www.abingtonpd.org/pedestrian-struck-by-train/

²⁹ https://www.abingtonpd.org/pedestrian-struck-by-train-2/

³⁰ https://6abc.com/pennsylvania-news-jenkintown-septa-person-hit-by-train/2553315/

- 97. In fact, the incident is, upon information and belief, depicted on video of not only SEPTA, but also one or more of the Premises Liability Defendants who, at the time of the incident and for a sufficient time leading up to it, had one of their employees, agents, workman, and/or contractors watching the Plaintiff's Decedent in real time on surveillance video acting erratically, in an obviously distressed manner in the area of the train tracks, while still on the Premises Liability Defendant's property, yet did nothing while making these observations, did not call the police, go to the Plaintiff's Decedent to discuss his purpose for being there in the area of the tracks, or prevent him from accessing the tracks.
- 98. Further, the engineer in charge of the train had a duty to observe and be cautions of pedestrians in the area, to signal his horn and to reduce his speed and apply his brakes in order to avoid posing a harm to pedestrians who were known to be and who were in fact present on and in the area of the tracks.
- 99. Additionally, the engineer in charge of the train had a duty to refrain from the negligent, careless, reckless, willful and wanton operation of the train in order to avoid contact with pedestrians in the area of the train and tracks.
- 100. SEPTA, acting through their agents and/or employees, including their engineer failed to do so, which caused and/or contributed to the Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death.
- 101. This Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death resulted solely from the negligent, careless, reckless, willful, and/or wanton conduct of the SEPTA Defendants, and/or the negligent, careless, reckless, and outrageous conduct, and the other liability producing conduct, including but not limited to the strict liability of the Social Media Defendants acting jointly and/or severally and was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the Plaintiff.
- 102. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's decedent John Michael Sullivan died on January 4, 2023.

- 103. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, the Plaintiff's Decedent suffered great conscious physical pain and suffering, trauma, mental anguish, embarrassment and humiliation prior to her death and did suffer consciously for several days prior to her wrongful death.
- 104. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's Decedent's daily activities, occupation and usual life's pleasures were forever extinguished.
- 105. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's Decedent's earnings, earning capacity and employment opportunities were terminated.
- 106. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, the Estate of John Michael Sullivan incurred liability for medical services, funeral and household expenses.

COUNT I

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5 NEGLIGENCE

- 107. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully herein.
- 108. The negligence and carelessness of the Social Media Defendants, their agents, servants, workmen, and/or employees, consists of, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Failure to design, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, sell and install appropriate safety systems on the Defendant's social media applications;

- b. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) that social media is addictive;
- c. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) of the dangers of contact by unknown users through the direct messaging component of the application including sextortion;
- d. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) of the existence and prevalence of sextortion on their application through the direct messaging component of the application;
- e. Failure to implement "technical signals" to identify sextorters and their accounts to prevent these sextorters from opening and operating accounts solely for the purpose of conduction illegal sextortion activity;
- f. Failure to warn users that sextortion accounts had been regularly identified and shut down on the application;
- g. Failure to warn users of the characteristics of a sextortion scam message including "highly stylized photos" and "people who exceptionally good looking" or who have "never sent you a message before" despite knowledge that such account characteristics are associated with sextortion activity;
- h. Failure to conduct sufficient investigation into the creation and operation of accounts originated in suspicious locations, including but not limited to Nigeria, which had characteristics of fraudulent or illegal accounts such as; new users sending mass messages to "many, many" users outside of their country or geographic area, "highly stylized photos" and "people who exceptionally good looking" or who have "never sent you a message before"; have little to no followers, comments on their photos, likes on their photos and/or posts; and/or other classic indicators of fraudulent account creation;
- i. Failure to monitor or prevent the creation of accounts with such characteristics as addressed above, or to prevent the operation of same;
- j. Failure to monitor or prevent the creation of, or prevent the operation of accounts of individuals, IP addresses, or other characteristics which the Defendants knew or should have known had previously been associated with account activity which was identified, or should have been identified as fraudulent;
- k. Allowing the creation of numerous and/or countless accounts by individuals or groups of individuals which can only be used for fraudulent or criminal activity;

- Otherwise require verification from the account creator and/or operator that
 would ensure the account is being created by a real person for a noncriminal and/or fraudulent purpose when creating an account with the
 characteristics set forth above in these sub-paragraphs;
- m. Failure to design and/or implement warnings before a user is permitted to send compromising images, including reminders and/or warnings to users that, among other things, the recipient user may not be who they say they are; may be a criminal; may use the images for sextortion; may forward the images or publish them without your consent and/or knowledge; and that the users profile and account should be viewed carefully in case they're not who they say they are;
- n. Failure to otherwise design and/or implement other reasonable nudity protection measures and/or warnings;
- o. Failure to provide a quick dedicated option for help and/or immediate resource to an individual who has been contacted through the application with threats to share private images;
- p. Failure to warn users when receiving messages from accounts with characteristics identified herein and with other characteristics suspicious for fraudulent/ criminal activity that such accounts may be associated with fraudulent activity, originate outside the country and/or from suspicious areas;
- q. Failure to warn users using geofencing of the location of direct messages;
- r. Failure to reasonably restrict the sharing of nude images;
- s. Failure to supply and/or post adequate notices or warnings of the risks and dangers of the product in the materials which describe the operation and use of the products and in the applications themselves;
- t. Failure to place or install warning notices in an obvious and/or conspicuous place in the application;
- u. Failure to manufacture, fabricate, assemble, sell and distribute products with adequate safety materials, manuals, instructions, markings, signs, warnings and safety devices;
- v. Failure to design algorithms to limit addictive engagement;
- w. Failure to warn of the health effects of use and extended use of the application;

- x. Failure to implement default protective limits regarding the time and length and frequency of use;
- y. Failure to implement opt-in restrictions to the length and frequency of use:
- z. Failure to implement self-limiting tools, including but not limited to session time notifications warnings, or reports;
- aa. Failure to create a beginning and end to a user's feed;
- bb. Failure to implement appropriate geofencing that would warn users when messages were coming from out of the country, or from specific suspicious areas;
- cc. Distributing defective products to the general public;
- dd. Advertising a defective product to the general public;
- ee. Failure to assemble the products so as to prevent injuries to the Plaintiff's Decedent and other users:
- ff. Failure to design a product with adequate materials and safety devices;
- gg. Failure to inspect said products prior to the sale, distribution or purchase of said product.
- 109. Prior to placing these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) into the stream of commerce, Defendants knew or should have known with adequate design, inspection and/or testing that these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were in a defective and dangerous condition and that because of these defects, these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) could not be used safely for the purposes for which they were intended. Defendants also knew that continued offering and use of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) would result in further injuries to persons such as Plaintiff's Decedent.
- 110. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and outrageous conduct of the Social Media Defendants its agents, servants, workmen, and/or employees, as set forth herein was the proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to the Plaintiff's Decedent and expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5 jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT II

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5 STRICT LIABILITY

- 111. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully at length herein.
- 112. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants' social media applications, Instagram and Snap were advertised, marketed, manufactured, designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce by the Social Media Defendants during and in the ordinary course of their business.
- 113. These social media application products as well as their components (including their algorithms and any associated warnings) did reach the Plaintiff's Decedent, an intended foreseeable user and cause injuries and the wrongful death in a condition substantially unchanged from that in which they were advertised, marketed, manufactured, designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce.
- 114. The injuries, damages and wrongful death sustained by the Plaintiff's Decedent as set forth above, were the direct result of the defective and dangerous conditions existing at the time

of the advertising, marketing, design, manufacture, fabrication, assembly, sale and/or distribution by the Social Media Defendants, including without limitation that the social media application products did not contain an adequate sufficient design protections to prevent individuals such as the sextortionists from Nigeria from utilizing these applications to widely target victims such as the Plaintiff's Decedent and many others with mass automated messages targeted by their age, location around schools and other vulnerable areas from another country known to be associated with high degrees of illegal and fraudulent criminal extortion activity and/or otherwise warn users about these dangers which were known to the Defendants for a sufficient period of time in advance of the incident involving the Plaintiff's Decedent.

- 115. Defendants are strictly liable pursuant to Section 402(a) of the Restatement of Torts, Second as said products were defective and unreasonably dangerous at the time they were distributed and Defendants failed to warn Plaintiff's Decedent, and other foreseeable users of the aforementioned defects and dangers.
- 116. Prior to the incident involving the Plaintiff's Decedent and/or the use of social media application products, the Social Media Defendants knew or should have known with adequate design, inspection and/or testing that the products were in a defective and dangerous condition and that because of the defects, the products could not be used safely for the purposes for which they were intended. Defendants also knew that continued offering for use of the products would result in further injuries to persons such as Plaintiff.
- 117. The social media application products, as advertised, marketed, manufactured, designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed, and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce by the Social Media Defendants also failed to contain proper warnings and instructions regarding the use of and all dangers associated with the use and operation of these products.

- warnings or instructions because, after the manufacturer knew or should have known of the risk of injury (including the risk of exposure to the highly pervasive fraudulent criminal activity, scams, and/or sextortion) to users and/or persons similarly situated as the Plaintiff, Defendants failed to provide adequate warnings to users and persons subjected to these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) as set forth at length above regarding the risks of sextortion for the reasons set forth at length above and herein, and continued to advertise, market, manufacture, design, fabricate, assemble, sell, distribute and/or otherwise place into the stream of commerce these products, i.e., Instagram and Snap.
- 119. The dangers of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) that caused and/or contributed to Plaintiff's Decedent's death were unknowable and unacceptable to the average or ordinary consumer, and therefore they failed to satisfy the Customer Expectation Test.
- 120. A reasonable person would conclude the probability and seriousness of the harms caused by the defectiveness of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) as set forth above, outweighed the burden or costs of taking precautions, and therefore they failed to satisfy the Risk-Utility test.
- 121. As a result of the aforementioned defects, and/or other dangerous propensities of the products, including improper warnings and instructions on these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) and in the operations/use manuals, the Plaintiff's Decedent was caused to sustain severe injuries, damages and suffer a wrongful death as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5

jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT III

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5

BREACH OF WARRANTY

- 122. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully herein.
- 123. The Social Media Defendants expressly and impliedly warranted the product was safe and fit for the particular purpose for which they were made.
- 124. The Social Media Defendants' breach of contract/warranty consisted, *inter alia*, of selling defective and dangerous products.
- 125. Plaintiff's Decedent relied on the skill, judgment, representations, and foregoing implied and express warranties of the Social Media Defendants. Said warranties and representations were false in that the aforementioned these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were not safe; were un-merchantable; and were unfit for the ordinary purpose and uses for which they were intended and caused Plaintiff's injuries.
- 126. Prior to the time the these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were used by Plaintiff's Decedent, the Social Media Defendants had implied warranted to the general public that said these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were of merchantable quality and safe and fit for the use for which they were intended.
- 127. The general public, Plaintiff's Decedent are unskilled in the research, manufacture, design, fabrications, assembly, sale and/or distribution of the aforementioned these products (i.e.,

Instagram and Snap) and reasonably relied on the skill, judgment and implied warranty of the Social Media Defendants in using the aforementioned these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap).

- 128. These products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were neither safe for their intended use nor of merchantable quality as warranted by the Social Media Defendants, in that they had dangerous propensities when put to their intended use and would cause severe injuries to the users.
- 129. The aforementioned breach of warranty was the proximate cause of the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff's Decedent as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5 jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT IV

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. SEPTA AND ROBERT MILSON NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND WILLFUL/WANTON CONDUCT

- 130. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length.
- 131. Defendants were aware that these train tracks established an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity.
- 132. Defendants were aware of the existence of numerous other pedestrian strikes on the tracks by trains in this vicinity, yet did nothing to obstruct access to the tracks on their property or safely control the movement of the train despite this knowledge.

- 133. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or willful/ wanton conduct of Defendants consisted of, but it not limited to:
 - a. Failure to exercise reasonable care to eliminate the danger or otherwise to protect Plaintiff's Decedent.
 - b. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to conduct and operate the train in a safe manner, including traveling at speeds in excess of speed limits in place by law;
 - c. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to monitor the safety of pedestrians and train passengers in and around the tracks where this incident occurred:
 - d. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians on the tracks;
 - e. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians on the tracks in a reasonable time;
 - f. failure to apply speed limiting devices including but not limited to brakes in sufficient time so as to avoid striking the Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - g. failure to brakes apply speed limiting devices including but not limited to brakes in sufficient time so as to provide the Plaintiff's Decedent reasonable opportunity to take evasive action and avoid being struck;
 - h. failure to slow the train down after its employee(s), agents and/or ostensible agents witnessed Plaintiff's Decedent on the tracks in the foreground as the train approached the location of the incident;
 - i. failure to stop the train in time to avoid striking Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - j. failure to blow the whistle of the train to warn Plaintiff's Decedent of impending danger;
 - k. failure to install any kind of barriers and/or fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - failure to repair the dangerous condition of the lack of fencing surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;

- m. failure to post warning signs along the train tracks;
- n. failure to repair holes in fences surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;
- o. failure to install fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
- p. creating a dangerous condition;
- q. creating an attractive nuisance;
- r. operating the train at too great of a speed approaching the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge of the risks of pedestrians on the tracks;
- s. failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid injuring others;
- t. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on the risks associated with pedestrians on the tracks;
- failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on how to safely observe pedestrians on the train tracks;
- v. failure to warn its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor of the existence of prior complaints or knowledge on behalf of SEPTA of pedestrians on the train tracks in the vicinity of the location of the incident;
- w. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on how to use horns and/or audio warning devices; and
- x. failure to inspect the condition of the fences in the area of the tracks where the incident occurred.

41. The negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendants as set forth herein was a proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to Plaintiff's Decedent, John Michael Sullivan and the expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants SEPTA, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT V

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC., D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC., 5-10, KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, LLC, JOHN DOE CORP., 5-10

NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND WILLFUL/WANTON CONDUCT

- 134. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length.
- 135. It is alleged and therefore averred that prior to January 4, 2023, Defendants had actual knowledge of the dangers associated with the proximity of their property and business to the exposed and unfenced train tracks adjacent to their property.
- 136. Defendants were aware that these train tracks established an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity.
- 137. Defendants were aware of the existence of numerous other pedestrian strikes on the tracks by trains yet did nothing to obstruct access to the tracks on their property.
- 138. Defendants were aware of the presence of the Plaintiff's Decedent on their property for a sufficient period of time in which they observed him wandering in a distressed fashion in the

area of the train tracks to take reasonable steps to intervene and prevent him from being struck by the train.

- 139. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or willful/ wanton conduct of Defendants consisted of, but it not limited to:
 - a. Failure to exercise reasonable care to eliminate the danger or otherwise to protect Plaintiff's Decedent.
 - failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to monitor the safety of pedestrians in and around the tracks where this incident occurred;
 - c. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians in the area of the train tracks;
 - d. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians in and around the tracks in a reasonable time;
 - e. failure to install any kind of barriers and/or fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - f. failure to repair the dangerous condition of the lack of fencing surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;
 - g. failure to post warning signs along the train tracks;
 - failure to install fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - i. failure to monitor surveillance cameras;
 - j. failure to intervene with the Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - k. failure to restrict Plaintiff's Decedent from accessing the tracks;
 - 1. failure to remove the Plaintiff's Decedent from the area of the tracks;
 - m. failure to take reasonable steps to protect the Plaintiff's Decedent from the hazard associated with the unfenced tracks;

- n. creating a dangerous condition;
- o. creating an attractive nuisance;
- p. observing the Plaintiff's Decedent on their property, acting nervously, scared, and distressed in the area of the train tracks for a significant period of time before he was struck and failing to intervene, call the police, or make contact with the Plaintiff's Decedent;
- q. failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid injuring others;
- r. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on the risks associated with pedestrians on the tracks;
- s. failure to warn its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, of the existence of prior complaints or knowledge of pedestrians on the train tracks in the vicinity of the location of the incident; and
- t. failure to inspect the condition of the fences in the area of the tracks where the incident occurred.
- 42. The negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendants as set forth herein was a proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to Plaintiff's Decedent, John Michael Sullivan and the expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, John Doe Corp 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT VI JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. ALL DEFENDANTS WRONGFUL DEATH

- 50. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth herein at length.
- 51. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the Wrongful Death Act 42 Pa. C.S.A. Section 8301 and claims all damages recoverable under the Pennsylvania Wrongful Death Act.
- 52. The names and last known addresses of all persons who may be entitled by law to recover damages, as well as their relationship to Decedent John Michael Sullivan are as follows:
 - a. James Sullivan, Jr., father619 Edgley AvenueGlenside, PA 19038
 - b. Kathleen Sullivan, mother619 Edgley AvenueGlenside, PA 19038
- 53. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, the Decedent's Wrongful Death beneficiaries have been, continue to be, and will in the future be deprived of his counsel, services, companionship and society.
- 54. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' liability producing conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, John Michael Sullivan's Wrongful Death beneficiaries suffered, are suffering and will, for an indefinite period of time in the future, suffer damages, injuries and losses, including but not limited to, a loss of financial support, and the beneficiaries have been wrongfully deprived of the contributions they would have received from him, including monies which he would have provided for items such as clothing, food, shelter, medical care, education and entertainment, recreation and gifts
- 55. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent and/or careless conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, John Michael Sullivan's Wrongful Death beneficiaries have been caused to incur and pay various expenses from medical treatment, hospital

care, custodial care, nursing care and medications, and funeral and other expenses related to his death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5 and John Doe Corp., 1-5, SEPTA, Robert Milson, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, and John Doe Corp 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT VII JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. ALL DEFENDANTS SURVIVAL ACTION

- 56. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth herein at length.
- 57. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, by virtue of the Survival Act, 42 Pa.C.S.A. §8302, and claims all benefits of the Survival Act on behalf of John Michael Sullivan's Estate and other persons entitled to recover under law.
- 58. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' liability producing conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, Plaintiff claims on behalf of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, all damages suffered by the Estate by reason of the death of John Michael Sullivan, including without limit the generality of the following: the severe injuries to John

Michael Sullivan which resulted in his death; the anxiety, horror, fear of impending death, mental disturbance, pain, suffering and other tangible losses which John Michael Sullivan suffered prior to his death, the loss of past, present, and future earning capacity suffered by John Michael Sullivan from the date of his death until the time in the future he would have lived had he not died as a result of the injuries he sustained; expenses for medical care, the loss and total limitation and deprivation of his normal activities until the time of his death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5 and John Doe Corp., 1-5, SEPTA, Robert Milson, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, and John Doe Corp. 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER LAW

BY: /s/
KEVIN P. O'BRIEN, ESQUIRE
TYLER STAMPONE, ESQUIRE
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DICELLO LEVITT

BY: /s/
DIANDRA DEBROSSE, ESQUIRE
ELI HARE, ESQUIRE

VERIFICATION

James Sullivan, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan states that he is the Plaintiff herein, that he is acquainted with the facts set forth in the foregoing pleading, that the same are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge and belief and that this statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Jim Sullivan

James Sullivan, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

Dated 12/20/2024

EXHIBIT A

SHORT CERTIFICATE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I, D. Bruce Hanes, Register of Wills in the County of Montgomery, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 10th day of April 2023 Letters of Administration on the Estate of JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

deceased, were granted to JAMES SULLIVAN JR

having first been qualified well and truly to administer the same. And I further certify that no revocation of said Letters appears of record in my office.

File number: 46-2023-X1168

Date of Death: 1/4/2023

Social Security Number: 200-80-9366

Given under my hand and seal of office this 10th day of April 2023

Montgomery County Register of Wills

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

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Case: 241202765	Court: Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas	County: Philadelphia Filed	d by the
Plaintiff / Petit James Sullivan,		Defendant / Respondent: Office of April 1980 (2024 0)	Records
Received by: Legal-Ease Ente	erprises	For: Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Law	W
To be served u SEPTA	pon:		

I, Joselynn Cook, being duly sworn, depose and say: I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action, and that within the boundaries of the state where service was effected, I was authorized by law to make service of the documents and informed said person of the contents herein

Recipient Name / Address: SEPTA, VIA EMAIL TO: Claimsintake@septa.org **Manner of Service:** Authorized, Dec 30, 2024, 11:46 am EST

Documents: Complaint

Additional Comments:

1) Successful Attempt: Dec 30, 2024, 11:46 am EST at VIA EMAIL TO: Claimsintake@septa.org. Legal Department. Due to COVID closures all service is being accepted via email. Confirmation email attached.

12/30/2024

Joselynn Cook

Date

Legal-Ease Enterprises 2424 E York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125



Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc. <info@legaleasepa.com>

FW: Service of Complaint: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

1 message

Melody Hill <MHill@septa.org>

Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 11:46 AM

To: "Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc." <info@legaleasepa.com>

Cc: Claims Intake <ClaimsIntake@septa.org>, Samuel Friedman <SFriedman@septa.org>, Stephen Vedro

<SVedro@septa.org>

Good Morning,

Septa hereby accepts service on the attached complaint for Sullivan vs Septa and Septa operator on December 30, 2024

Thank You

From: Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc. <info@legaleasepa.com>

Sent: Friday, December 27, 2024 11:29 AM **To:** Claims Intake < ClaimsIntake@septa.org>

Subject: Service of Complaint: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

Good morning,

Attached is a complaint for service on SEPTA and Robert Milson C/O SEPTA. Please confirm acceptance of service.

Thank you,

Joselynn

Case: 241202765

Plaintiff: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

Defendant: SEPTA, et al

Court: Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas

County: Philadelphia



Legal-Ease Enterprises

- **** 215-535-1532
- www.LegalEasePA.com
- 2424 E. York St., Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125

Case ID: 241202765

Leave us a review on Google and get your next Philadelphia service FREE!

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AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

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Case: 241202765	Court: Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas	County: Philadelphia Filed and lattested by the
Plaintiff / Petit James Sullivan,		Defendant / Respondent: Office of Part 1 Records SEPTA, et al 31 VEX 2024 09:40 am
Received by: Legal-Ease Ente	erprises	For: Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Law
To be served u Robert Milson	pon:	

I, Joselynn Cook, being duly sworn, depose and say: I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action, and that within the boundaries of the state where service was effected, I was authorized by law to make service of the documents and informed said person of the contents herein

Recipient Name / Address: Robert Milson , VIA EMAIL TO: Claimsintake@septa.org

Manner of Service: Authorized, Dec 30, 2024, 11:46 am EST

Documents: Complaint

Additional Comments:

1) Successful Attempt: Dec 30, 2024, 11:46 am EST at VIA EMAIL TO: Claimsintake@septa.org. Legal Department. Due to COVID closures all service is being accepted via email. Confirmation email attached.

12/30/2024

Joselynn Cook

Date

Legal-Ease Enterprises 2424 E York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125



Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc. <info@legaleasepa.com>

FW: Service of Complaint: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

1 message

Melody Hill <MHill@septa.org>

Mon, Dec 30, 2024 at 11:46 AM

To: "Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc." <info@legaleasepa.com>

Cc: Claims Intake <ClaimsIntake@septa.org>, Samuel Friedman <SFriedman@septa.org>, Stephen Vedro

<SVedro@septa.org>

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Thank You

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Sent: Friday, December 27, 2024 11:29 AM **To:** Claims Intake < ClaimsIntake@septa.org>

Subject: Service of Complaint: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

Good morning,

Attached is a complaint for service on SEPTA and Robert Milson C/O SEPTA. Please confirm acceptance of service.

Thank you,

Joselynn

Case: 241202765

Plaintiff: James Sullivan, Jr., et al

Defendant: SEPTA, et al

Court: Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas

County: Philadelphia



Legal-Ease Enterprises

- **** 215-535-1532
- www.LegalEasePA.com
- 2424 E. York St., Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125

Case ID: 241202765

Leave us a review on Google and get your next Philadelphia service FREE!

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LEGAL-EASE ENTER PRISES - EVC 00456-KBH 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321
Philadelphia, PA 19125

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Filed and Attested by the Office of July 1 Records

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PLAINTIFF(s): James Sullivan, Jr., et al 420167	2412 02 7	'65 <i>*</i> €	Washington in the second secon
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NAME OF SERVER being duly sworn according to law, deposes and Says that he/she is process server herein names; and that the facts herein set fo Above are true and correct to the best of their knowledge, information and belief. Process Server/Competent Adult	rth Sheriff		coribed before me this day of20
Now, this day of, 20, I do hereby do To serve this \Bullet Summons \Bullet Complaint \Bullet Other By (Competent Adult):	and make	eriff of return thereof a neriff's Check \$_	and according to Law.
Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc. Attorney's Name: Same as above For: Plaintiff Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125	ATTEST:	Decemb	PROTH V er 23 rd , 2024 DATE
Telephone: 215-535-1532 Identification: 313081			Case ID: 241202765
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AL-EASE ENTERPRISES, INC. 24 DOCUMENTS Filed 01/27/25

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Case ID: 241202765

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NAME OF SERVER being duly sworn accor. Says that he/she is process server herein name. Above are true and correct to the best of their kerness. Process Server/Competent Adult	nowledge, information and belief.	orth Sheri		cribed before me thisday of 20
Now, this day of To serve this □Summons □Com By (Competent Adult):	, 20, I do hereby d	and m	s Sheriff of ake return thereof a y Sheriff's Check \$_	and according to Law.
Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Attorney's Name: Same as above	_ For:Plaintiff	_ ATTES		PROTHY
Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125				er 23 rd , 2024
Telephone: 215-535-1532	Identification:_313081		L	DATE

LEGAL-EASE CHIEBPRISES-ING-00456-KBH Document Filed 01/27/25 Pareiladelphia Association of Professional Process Serve 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125 AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE COURT TERM & NO .: PLAINTIFF(s): James Sullivan, Jr., et al 241202765 * Job Number: SERVE BY: DEFENDANT(s): 01/22/2025 John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown 12411239 Subpoena SERVE AT: XXCivil Action - Compl. * 1650 The Fairway Notice of Real Estate Sale Summons Other Jenkintown, PA 19046 o Writ SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: LAST DAY FOR SERVICE:___ Served and made known to $\underbrace{Steven \ tenet}$.M., 20 29 at $\underbrace{07:50}$ o'clock \underbrace{A} .M., At above address Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In the manner described below: Defendant(s) personally served. o Adult family member with whom said Defendant(s) reside(s). Relationship is _ o Adult in charge of Defendant's residence who refused to give name or relationship. Manager/Clerk of place of lodging in which Defendant(s) reside(s). Agent or person in charge of Defendant's office or usual place of business. an officer of said Defendant company. Other **DESCRIPTION:** SEX: OTHER: WEIGHT: RACE: HEIGHT: AGE: On the ______ day of ______, 20____, at _____ o'clock_____.M.. Defendant not found because: ☐ Moved ☐ Unknown ☐ No Answer ☐ Vacant ☐ Other Sworn to & subscribed before me this NAME OF SERVER being duly sworn according to law, deposes and Says that he/she is process server herein names; and that the facts herein set forth Above are true and correct to the best of their knowledge, information and belief. Process Server/Competent Adult _____ Now, this _____ day of _____, 20____, I do hereby deputize the Sheriff of _____ County. To serve this Summons Complaint Other and make return thereof and according to Law. County Sheriff's Check \$____ By (Competent Adult): _____

Attorney's Name: Same as above For: Plaintiff Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321

Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc.

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Telephone: 215-535-1532 _Identification: 313081

ATTEST:

PRO PROTHY

December 23rd, 2024

DATE

reet, Suite 321

Document Filed 01/27/25

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Philadelphia, PA 19125

James Sullivan, Jr., et al

PLAINTIFF(s):

DEFENDANT(s):

DB Pete, Inc.

SERVE AT: 1650 The Fairway

Jenkintown, PA 19046

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, In the manner described by Defendant(s) personally served. Adult family member with whom said Defendant(s) resides Adult in charge of Defendant's residence who refused to Manager/Clerk of place of lodging in which Defendant(s) Agent or person in charge of Defendant's office or usual of Other	e(s). Relationship is _ give name or relatior reside(s). place of business.	
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Now, this day of, 20, I do he To serve this □Summons □Complaint □Other By (Competent Adult):	ereby deputize the s	Sheriff ofCounty,
Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises Attorney's Name: Same as above For: Plaintiff Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125 Telephone: 215-535-1532 Identification: 31308		PRO PROTHY December 23 rd , 2024 DATE
		Case ID: 241202765

LEGAL-EASE ENTERPRISES PVC-00456-KBH 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321

Philadelphia, PA 19125

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PLAINTIFF(s):	COURT T	ERM & NO.:	CONTACTOR
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 Defendant(s) personally served. Adult family member with whom said Defendant(s) reside(s). Relation 	nship is		
Adult in charge of Defendant's residence who refused to give name			
o Manager/Clerk of place of lodging in which Defendant(s) reside(s).			
Agent or person in charge of Defendant's office or usual place of bu o an office		efendant company	
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Says that he/she is process server herein names; and that the facts herein set forth			N [17]
Above are true and correct to the best of their knowledge, information and belief.			2024
Dracess Company (Octobrate Adville	01:	Cappen	w c
Process Server/Competent Adult	Sheriff	Cattre	yo <u><u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u> <u>o</u></u>
No. 11:			ਹ ਤੋਂ
Now, this day of, 20, I do hereby depu			County,
To serve this □Summons □Complaint □ Other By (Competent Adult):		Sheriff's Check \$	d according to Law.
by (Competent Addit).	County		<u>→</u> →
Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc.	ATTEST	- FILED:	
Attorney's Name: Same as above For: Plaintiff		PRO PF	ROTHY
-			
Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321		December	23 rd . 2024
Philadelphia, PA 19125		DAT	
Telephone: 215-535-1532		DAT	L
identificationidentification			Caca ID: 241202765
			Case ID: 241202765

Document Filed 01/27/25

Pageil610pofa 1882ciation of Professional Process Servers

+24 L. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125

AFFIDAVIT OF S	ERVIC	Soffice of	Tunicial Records
PLAINTIFF(s):	COURT T	ERM & NO.:	RALOGRIAS A
James Sullivan, Jr., et al	2412	¥ 2765 *	Phillade Nia
DEFENDANT(s):	Job Numb	er:	SERVE BY:
Bryner Chevrolet, Inc.	12411	239	01/22/2025
SERVE AT: 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046	XXCivil A Summ Writ _		SubpoenaNotice of Real Estate SaOther
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:		LAST DAY FOR SERVICE	CE: 1/22/2025
Served and made known to <u>ED</u> Brunton			
On the, 20	0 25	_at <u>0800</u>	o'clockAM.,
At	or relatior siness.	rship.	mont.
<u>DESCRIPTION:</u> AGE: HEIGHT: WEIGHT: RACE:		SEX: OTH	ER:
On the day of, 20, at _ Defendant not found because: \$\square\$ Moved \$\square\$ Unknown \$\square\$ No Ans Other:		o'clocko'Vacant	
NAME OF SERVER	Sheriff	Sworn to & subscri	bed before me this ay of20
Toolog derively demiperent Addit	_ Sheriii	600.3.0	X 60 60
Now, this day of, 20, I do hereby depursons serve this Summons Complaint Other By (Competent Adult):	and ma		C ounty,
aw Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc.	ATTEST	FILED:	9 PA
Attorney's Name:_Same as above For:_ Plaintiff		PRO PR	ROTHY
Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321			
Philadelphia, PA 19125		December :	23 rd , 2024
Tolophono, 215-535-1532 Identification, 313081		DAT	E

2424 E. York Street, Suite 321 Philadelphia, PA 19125



Filed 01/27/25

Philadelphia Association Page 61 of 172 Professional Process Serv

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Professional Process Serve

Allibatio	3211111	Office of	Julicial Records
PLAINTIFF(s):	COURT TERM & N	NO.: 14 JAN	2025 02:58 om
James Sullivan, Jr., et al	0.44202765	X	OISTRICT OF
	241202765 Job Number:		SERVE BY:
DEFENDANT(s):	12411248		01/22/2025
Kennedy Real Estate Associates Management, LLC	12411240		
DEDVE AT	XXCivil Action -		o Subpoena
SERVE AT: 620 Bustleton Pike	o Summons		Notice of Real Estate SalOther
Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053	o Writ		O Other
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:			
Served and made known to On the day of	00 01		.M.,
On the day of	_, 20 at _		
At		Case # 2025-91023-00 Main (Public)	000 73836435 0 7 9 0
Defendant(a) personally served		Code: 0 Judge: Ropt 22874467 12723	/2024 3:40:41 PM
A dult family member with whom said Defendant(s) reside(s), Ke	elationship is		the tree that I see that I
 Adult family member with whom said beforeath(s). Adult in charge of Defendant's residence who refused to give not manager/Clerk of place of lodging in which Defendant(s) residence. 	e(s).	01/07/2025	UC 3 AW
	or business.		
an o	officer of said Defend	ant company.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Other		Chark #65	SERVICE (\$170.00 \$97 \$110.00
DESCRIPTION:		The state of the s	3110.00
AGE: HEIGHT: WEIGHT: RAC	E: SEX:	·0ŦH	\$110.00 FRink You *** Blymdipaolo
		To be a like	LA SEATTEMENT CONTRA
On the day of, 20	, at	acant \square 0	
Defendant not found because: ☐ Moved ☐ Unknown ☐ N	IO Aliswei	acant 🗀 C	7(1101
Other:			
	S	worn to & subscr	ibed before me this
NAME OF SERVER being duly sworn according to law, deposes and	_		day of 20
Save that he (she is process server herein names; and that the facts herein set	forth _		
Above are true and correct to the best of their knowledge, information and beli-	ei.		
Process Server/Competent Adult	Sheriff		
		Bucks	0
Now, this day of December, 20 24, I do hereby	deputize the Sher	iff of	County,
To serve this USummons XXI Complaint U Other	and make it	eturn thereof ar riff's Check \$ <u>1</u>	according to Law.
By (Competent Adult):	County She		10.00
Law Firm: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire C/O Legal-Ease Enterprises, Inc.	ATTEST: _	FILED:	
		PRO F	PROTHY
, teco			
Address: 2424 E. York Street, Suite 321		Decembe	r 23 rd , 2024
Philadelphia, PA 19125		D	ATE
Telephone: 215-535-1532			

Filed 01/27/25 Page 62 of 172

BUCKS SHERIFF'S RETURN

Case #:

2025-91023

Commenced: 12/23/2024

Caption:

SULLIVAN JR, JAMES

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT LLC

SERVICE REQUEST

Request #:

57748 (1 of 1)

Request Type:

Out of County COMPLAINT

Entered:

1/7/2025 by COB\jlsommers

Requested By:

JAMES SULLIVAN JR

UNKNOWN

Special Instructions:

Service To:

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT LLC

Zone:

2

Address:

620 BUSTLETON PIKE

FEASTERVILLE TREVOSE, PA 19053

Municipality: LowerSouthampton TOWNSHIP

Pick Up on 1/8/2025 7:17 AM by deputy Deputy John Baran

Served on 1/8/2025 10:36 AM by deputy Deputy John Baran

Person in Charge of Business (A)(2)(iii)

Served To: Ken Nixon

Case ID: 241202765

BUCKS SHERIFF'S RETURN



Case #: 2025-91023 Commenced: 12/23/2024

SULLIVAN JR, JAMES Caption:

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT LLC



S57748

S57748

SERVICE REQUEST

Request #:

57748 (1 of 1)

Request Type:

Out of County COMPLAINT

Entered:

1/7/2025 by COB\jlsommers

Due by:

1/22/2025

Requested By:

JAMES SULLIVAN JR

UNKNOWN

Special Instructions:

Service To:

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT LLC

2 Zone:

Address: 620 BUSTLETON PIKE

FEASTERVILLE TREVOSE, PA 19053

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER HOLLOWAY

Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire

ID No.: 313081 500 Cottman Avenue Cheltenham, PA 19012 (215) 663-0400 Attorney for Plaintiff



James Sullivan, Jr. Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

VS.

DECEMBER TERM, 2024

META PLATFORMS, INC., et al

No.: 02765

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I, Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire hereby certify that I did cause a true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Complaint to be served upon the following Defendants on January 4, 2025 via US Postal First Class Certified Mail.

Facebook Payments Inc.
Facebook Holdings LLc
Instagram LLC
Meta Platforms Inc.
Facebook Technologies LLC
Facebook Operations LLC

Said Green Cards and print out from the USP\$ Tracking are attached hereto.

KEVIN P. O'BRIEN, ESQUIRE

Sworn to and Subscribed Before me this day

Of

this day

NOTARY PUBLIC

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal LAUREN BOFFA-TAYLOR - Notary Public Montgomery County

My Commission Expires February 17, 2026 Commission Number 1262161

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVER	łΥ
Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits.	A. Signature X B. Received by (Printed Name) C.	☐ Agent ☐ Addressee Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to: Facebook Operators LLC 1 Hacker Way Manls Park CA 94035	D. Is delivery address different from Itém 1? If YES, enter delivery address below:	☐ Yés ☐ No
9590 9402 8705 3310 8788 42 2 Article Number <i>Gransfer from service labell</i> 9589 0710 5270 0283 4494	☐ Adult Signature ☐ Regist ☐ Adult Signature Reatricted Delivery ☐ Regist ☐ Certified Mail® ☐ Delivery ☐ Certified Mail Reatricted Delivery ☐ Signature ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Signature ☐ Signature ☐ Signature ☐ Signature	y Mall Express© ared Mall TM ored Mall Resti y ure Confirmati ure Confirmati sted Delivery
PS Form 381 1, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic	Return Re

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DEL	IVERY
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the maliplece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Signature X B. Received by (Printed Name) M. C	C Agent C Addressee C Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to: Faubuk Technologiev 2LC 1 Hacker Way Mesels Pack, CA 94025	D. Is delivery address different from Ite If YES, enter delivery address below	
9590 9402 8705 3310 9488 80 2 Article Number (Transfer from service label) 9589 0710 5270 0283 4494	□ Adult Signature □ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery □ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery □ Certified Mail® □ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery □ Collect on Delivery	riority Mail Express® legistered Mail™ legistered Mail™ legistered Mail Restricted fellvery lgnature Confirmation™ lignature Confirmation lestricted Delivery
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domi	estic Return Receipt

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailplece, or on the front if space permits. 	A. Signature A. Signature Agent Addressee B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to: Meta Clayuma fre F/K/A Flacher fre 1 Hacker Way Menls Park, CA 94025	D. is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yés If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
9590 9402 8705 3310 9490 09 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 1589 0710 5270 0283 4494	3. Service Type ☐ Adult Signature ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mall® ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Adult Restricted Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Adult Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Adult Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Adult Restricted Delivery ☐ Onlect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Adult Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Idall Restricted Delivery ☐ Idall ☐ Idall Restricted Delivery
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic Return Receipt

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION		
	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DE	LIVERY
Complete Items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature	
Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.	X M	Agent Agent
Attach this card to the back of the malipiece,	B. Received by (Printed Name)	Addressee
or on the front if space permits.	Michael	G. Date of Delivery
Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from it	em 1? 🔲 Yes
Austegam LLC 1 Hacked Way Menls Park, CA 94025	If YES, enter delivery address bel	ow: 🗆 No
		•
/ Hacker Way	i i .	
10100]]	
Menls Tall, CH 94025		
	3. Servjaé Type	Data-Mark L. H. Thomas Co.
	☐ Adult Signature ☐	Priority Mail Express® Registered Mail [™]
9590 9402 8705 3310 8792 90	as certified Malks	Regiatered Mall Restricted Delivery
	☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐	Signature Confirmation*** Signature Confirmation
Article Number (Transfer from service label)		Restricted Delivery
9589 0710 5270 0283 4495	All Restricted Delivery	
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Dom	estic Return Receipt
·		logue naturit Macalbt

	·
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3.	A. Signature
Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.	X Agent
Attach this card to the back of the mailplece, or on the front if space permits,	B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
1. Arthois Addressed to! Halling LLC / Hacker Way Menls Park CA 94025	D. is delivery address different from item 1?
Menlo Park CA 94025	
9590 9402 8705 3310 9490 30	3. Service Type ☐ Adult Signature ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Certified Mail® ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation™ ☐ Signature Confirmation™
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)	☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery ☐ Restricted Delivery
4544 E850 0752 <u>0170 P87</u> P	L3 Restricted Delivery
PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic Return Receipt

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY	
 Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mallplece, or on the front if space permits. Article Addressed to: 	A. Signature X	8899
Facebook Payments for 1 Stacker Way Merlo Pack, CA 14025	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?	
9590 9402 8705 3310 9489 96	3. Service Type Addit Signature Addit Signature Restricted Delivery Geriffled Mail® Geriffled Mail® Restricted Delivery Signature Confirmation	ricted
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PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053	Domestic ReturnsRece	pt i

Tracking Numberse 2:25-cv-00456-KBH Document 1-4

Filed 01/27/25 Page 71 of 172

9589071052700283449463





Copy Add to Informed Delivery

Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:00 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:





Delivered to Agent Delivered to Agent, Picked up at USPS

MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:00 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

9589071052700283449449



Add to Informed Delivery

Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:11 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:



USPS Tracking Plus®



Delivered to Agent Delivered to Agent, Picked up at USPS

MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:11 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

Ren

Tracking Number:

9589071052700283449487



Add to Informed Delivery

Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:01 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:





MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:01 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

Remov

9589071052700283449500





Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:01 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:





MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:01 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

Tracking Numberse 2:25-cv-00456-KBH Document 1-4 Filed 01/27/25 Page 75 of 172

9589071052700283449470





Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:01 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:





Delivered to Agent

MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:01 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

9589071052700283449456





Latest Update

Your item has been delivered to an agent. The item was picked up at USPS at 8:00 am on January 4, 2025 in MENLO PARK, CA 94025.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:





MENLO PARK, CA 94025 January 4, 2025, 8:00 am

See All Tracking History

What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?

Case ID: 241202765

Ren

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060 Philadelphia, PA 19103 (267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599

(267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com



JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Please enter the appearances of Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire and Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire, as attorneys for Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, in the above-captioned matter.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/21/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendant Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner

Chevrolet

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060 Philadelphia, PA 19103 (267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 Attorney for Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet

<u>bfrommer@tthlaw.com</u> / <u>cwilliams@tthlaw.com</u>

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Case ID: 241202765

I, Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire, do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was filed this date via the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas E-Filing System and thereby deemed served on all counsel of record pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure and Philadelphia County Local Rules.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/21/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendant Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060 Philadelphia, PA 19103 (267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevroleto Inccel Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP



JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL

bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com

Plaintiff,

v.

SULLIVAN,

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Case ID: 241202765

Please enter the appearances of Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire and Chelsea A. Williams,

Esquire, as attorneys for Defendant, DBP Partners, LP, in the above-captioned matter.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/22/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

By: /s/Chelsea A. Williams

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com

Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire, do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was filed this date via the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas E-Filing System and thereby deemed served on all counsel of record pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure and Philadelphia County Local Rules.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/22/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

By: Tara G. Nalencz, Esquire Identification No. 94064 Office of General Counsel – Legal Division 1234 Market Street, Fifth Floor

Philadelphia, PA. 19107 Phone: (215) 580-7565 E-Mail: tnalencz@septa.org Attorney for Defendants Robert Millison Office

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR. ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN **Plaintiff**

VS.

META PLATFORMS, INC. f/k/a FACEBOOK, INC. and FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC and FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC and FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC. and FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC and INSTGRAM, LLC and SNAP, INC. JOHN DOE INC. 1-5 and JOHN DOE CORP 1-5 and SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA and ROBERT MILSON and BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. d/b/a BRYNER CHEVROLET and DBP PARTNERS, LP and DB Pete, Inc. and JOHN DOE, INC., 5-10 and JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN and HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP and KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE CORP., 5-10

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY CIVIL TRIAL DIVISION

SEPTA File No.: C-2023-1913-001

DECEMBER TERM, 2024

NO.: 02765

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

TO THE PROTHONOTARY:

Defendants

Case ID: 241202765

Kindly enter my appearance for the Defendants, Southeastern Pennsylvania

Transportation Authority ("SEPTA") and Robert Milson (operator) in the above case.

/s/ Tara G. Nalencz
TARA G. NALENCZ, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Defendants, SEPTA and

Dated: January 23, 2025 Robert Millison

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

Filed COURT OF COMMONTLE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

ORDER

AND NOW, this _____ day of ______, 2025, upon consideration of the Preliminary Objections to Plaintiff's Complaint by the Moving Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP and any and all responses thereto, the Preliminary Objections are hereby SUSTAINED. It is further ordered that:

Any and all claims within Plaintiff's Complaint as to Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP are dismissed, with prejudice;

Alternatively

(1) Any allegations of "attractive nuisance" are stricken from Counts V, VI, and VII, as they pertain to Moving Defendants, are stricken with prejudice; and

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(2) Any and all allegations of recklessness, reckless, and wanton/willful conduct are stricken from Count V, VI, and VII, as they pertain to Moving Defendants, are stricken with prejudice.

BY THE COURT:	
	, J.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060 Philadelphia, PA 19103 (267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 Attorney for Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET AND DBP PARTNERS LP'S PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

Defendants Byner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners LP, by and through their counsel Thomas, & Hafer, hereby files the within Preliminary Objections to Plaintiff's Complaint and aver the following in support thereof:

I. STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1. Plaintiff, James Sullivan, Jr. as administrator of the Estate of John Micheal Sullivan, commenced this action, seeking recovery for the damages allegedly incurred as a result of decedent tragically stepping onto train tracks and being struck by a SEPTA train on January 4, 2023, in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Complaint is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

- 2. Plaintiff further avers that prior to this incident, decent was unfortunately involved in a sextortion plot where he was being threatened to pay unknown sums of money to a group from Nigeria, so explicit photographs would not be released to schoolmates, his family, and the public in general. See Exhibit A at ¶ 70-80.
- 3. Plaintiff complaint then described that after "unyielding threats from the sextortionists, the Plaintiff's Decedent went to a nearby SEPTA train track, where was killed by a SEPTA train." See Id. at ¶81.
- 4. Objecting Defendant Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Byner Chevrolet is a car dealership that occupies the property located at 1750 the Fairway in Jenkintown, Pennsyvania.
- 5. Defendant DBP Partners, LP owns the premises located at 1750 the Fairway in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.
- 6. The property owned and maintained by Objecting Defendants abuts train tracks that are used and operated by Amtrack and Septa.
- 7. Plaintiff alleges that Decedent crossed through Objecting Defendant's property in order to access the SEPTA train tracks were he ultimately died. See Id. at ¶ 87.
 - 8. Plaintiff has deemed the decedent's death as a homicide. See Id. at ¶ 88.

9. However, Plaintiff's complaint claims that Objecting Defendants observed the

decedent "wandering in a distressed fashion in the area of the train tracks." See Id. at ¶ 138.

10. Plaintiff further alleges Observing Defendants were negligent and reckless by

observing the Decedent on their property, acting nervously, scared, and distressed in the area of

the train tracks before he was struck and did not intervene or call the police. See Id. at ¶ 138 (p).

11. While the Objecting Defendants are held to the restraints of the fact averred in

Plaintiff's complaint, it is Objecting Defendants understanding and belief that Decedent's death

was ruled a suicide.¹

12. Plaintiff seek recovery under the theories of negligence, recklessness, and

willful/wanton conduct (Count V), wrongful death (Count VI), and survival action (Count VII)

alleging that the Objecting Defendant breached a purported duty of care owed to the decedent to

erect fencing, disallowing access to the train tracks. See Exhibit A ¶ 139 (e, f, and h).

13. The Complaint further alleges that Objecting Defendant was aware the train tracks

created an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity. Id. at ¶136.

14. Objecting Defendants now submit these Preliminary Objections, as they had no

duty of care under Pennsylvania law to affirmatively erect fencing to disallow access to train tracks

adjacent to their property, nor can they be held liable for an "attractive nuisance" created by

another party and owned, managed, and/or maintained by another party (i.e. SEPTA and/or

Amtrak).

II. <u>ARGUMENT</u>

A. LEGAL STANDARD

¹ If Plaintiff Decedent's death is a suicide, under <u>McPeake v. William T. Cannon, Esquire, P.C.</u>, Plaintiff decdents's death by suicide cannot occasion a wrongful death recovery against Objecting Defendants. <u>See McPeake v. William T. Cannon, Esquire, P.C.</u>, 381 Pa. Super. 227.

- 15. Pa.R.C.P. 1028(a)(4) permits a party to object to a pleading based on legal insufficiency in the nature of a demurrer.
 - 16. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has stated,

"[A] demurrer tests the legal sufficiency of the complaint. A trial court may sustain a demurrer, and thereby dismiss a claim, only when the law is clear that a plaintiff is not entitled to recovery based on the facts alleged in the complaint. In determining the merits of a demurrer, all well-pleaded, material facts set forth in the complaint and all inferences fairly deducible from those facts are considered admitted and are accepted by the trial court as true; conclusions of law are neither deemed admitted nor deemed true."

Ins. Adjustment Bureau, Inc. v. Allstate Ins. Co., 905 A.2d 462, 468 (Pa. 2006) (citations omitted). (Followed by Commonwealth v. UPMC, 208 A.3d 898, 908 (Pa. 2019)).

- 17. In Counts V, VI, and VII, of the Complaint, Plaintiffs attempt to assert liability claims against Objecting Defendants for negligence, wrongful death and survival.
- 18. To succeed on a negligence claim, a plaintiff must prove four elements: (1) a duty or obligation recognized by law; (2) a breach of that duty; (3) a causal connection between the defendant's breach of duty and the plaintiff's injury; and (4) actual injury. Cooper v. Frankford Health Sys., Inc., 2008 PA Super 248, 960 A.2d 134, 140 n.2 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2008); see also R.W. v. Manzek, 585 Pa. 335, 888 A.2d 740, 746 (Pa. 2005).
- 19. The question presented by the demurrer is whether, on the facts averred, the law says with certainty that no recovery is possible." <u>Mistick Inc. v. Northwestern Nat'lCas. Co.,</u> 2002 PA Super 267, 806 A.2d 39, 42 (Pa. Super. 2002) (citation omitted).
- 20. Preliminary objections in the nature of a demurrer require the court to resolve the issues solely on the basis of the pleadings; no testimony or other evidence outside of the complaint may be considered to dispose of the legal issues presented by the demurrer. (citation omitted),

Cooper v. Frankford Health Care System, Inc., 2008 PA Super 248, 960 A.2d 134, 2008 WL 4615714, 6 (Pa.Super.) (Pa.Super., 2008).

<u>Preliminary Objection in the Nature of a Motion to Dismiss and/or Strike</u> <u>Plaintiff's Complaint due based upon failure to state a valid claim of negligence</u>

- 21. "To sustain preliminary objections in the nature of a demurrer, it must appear with certainty that, upon the facts averred, the law will not permit recovery by the plaintiff." <u>Harkins v. Zamichieli</u>, 266 Pa. Super. 401, 405 A.2d 495, 497 (Pa. Super. 1979)(quoting <u>Schott v. Westinghouse Electric Corporation</u>, 436 Pa. 279, 259 A.2d 443, 445 (Pa. 1969).
- 22. The sustaining of a demurrer results in the denial of a claim or the dismissal of a suit and should therefore be sustained only in cases that are clear and free from doubt. R.W. v. Manzek, 585 Pa. 335, 888 A.2d 740, 749 (Pa. 2005); Bourke v. Kazaras, 2000 PA Super 29, 746 A.2d 642, 643 (Pa.Super.Ct.2000).

a. Objecting Defendants had no duty to erect fences or barriers on its property because of its proximity to train tracks

- 23. Plaintiff avers that decedent walked through the "Premises Defendants" properties in order to gain access train tracks which abut both properties. See Exhibit A at 87.
- 24. Further, Plaintiff avers that Objecting Defendants were negligent, reckless, and/or careless by virtue of their failure to install barriers that prevented pedestrians to gain access to the train tracks, failing to install fencing along the tracks, and/or failing to repair the lack of fencing around the train tracks. See Exhibit A at 139.
- 25. In short: all of Plaintiff's claims against Objecting Defendants hinge on the assertion that Defendants had a duty of care to prevent persons from crossing their property and accessing the adjacent train tracks.

26. However, no such duty of care exists under Pennsylvania law. The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court established in Scarborough v Scarborough, that "it is well settled that the law imposes no duty upon a possessor of adjacent land to erect fencing or provide warnings so as to deter persons from entering a third party's property on which there exists a dangerous condition not created or maintained by the landowner and over which the landowner has no control." Kearns v. Rollins Outdoor Advertising, Inc., 89 Pa.Commw. 596, (1985); Magner v. Baptist Church, supra; Heller v. Consolidated Rail Corporation, 576 F. Supp. 6 (E.D. Pa.1982), aff'd 720 F.2d 662 (3d Cir.1983); Cousins v. Yaeger, 394 F. Supp. 595 (E.D.Pa.1975) (emphasis added).

27. The Court went on to state:

- "...[I]t would be incongruous to impose such a duty upon landowners adjacent to a railroad right-of-way when it long has been held that a railroad has no duty to erect fences on its right-of-way to deter trespassers." <u>Dugan v. Pennsylvania Railroad Company</u>, 387 Pa. 25, 127 (1956); <u>Malischewski v. Pennsylvania Railroad Company</u>, supra. <u>Cousins</u>, 394 F. Supp. at 605. See also Lynch v. National Railroad Passenger Corporation, supra.
- 28. As noted above, Objecting Defendants have no legal duty to erect fences or provide warnings to deter a person from entering train tracks which Plaintiff acknowledges in the Complaint are not located on Objecting Defendants' property and which Objecting Defendants have no control over.
- 29. While Objecting Defendants have great sympathy for Plaintiff and recognize that Plaintiff may have a cognizable claim under the entirely separate theories posited against the so-called "Social Media Defendants," Objecting Defendants nonetheless aver that this Court should not establish a new and novel theory of liability against every landowner in Pennsylvania whose property happens to abut a railroad track.

- 30. Indeed and quite to the contrary the Courts in this Commonwealth have routinely and uniformly held that there is *no such duty*. See Scarborough, supra.
- 31. Simply put: Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a legally cognizable claim because the underlying factual basis for the claims that Objecting Defendants failed to erect a fence along the adjacent railroad tracks is not sufficient to establish a duty of care. to the decedent, let alone claim a duty had been breached.
- 32. Absent such facts, Plaintiffs' liability claims against Objection Defendants are legally insufficient and should be dismissed pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1028(a)(4).
 - b. Preliminary Objection Pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. (a)(4): Plaintiff Attempts to Allege the Application of the Attractive Nuisance Doctrine Even though it is Not Applicable to the Facts of the Case
- 33. Plaintiff alternatively claims that Objecting Defendants were aware that the train tracks, posed an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area. See Complaint at ¶ 136..
- 34. Under the "attractive nuisance" doctrine, landowners have been held responsible for injuries to children caused by dangerous conditions on the land when children were to be anticipated, and the burden of making the place safe was comparatively slight in view of the serious risk involved.
- 35. The Supreme Court has adopted the definition of attractive nuisance from the Restatement of the Law of Torts specifically at is applies to children.
 - 36. The term has been defined as follows:

A possessor of land is subject to liability for bodily harm to **young children** trespassing thereon caused by a structure or other artificial condition which he maintains upon the land, if

- (a) the place where the condition is maintained is one upon which the possessor knows or should know that such children are likely to trespass, and
- (b) the condition is one of which the possessor knows or should know and which he realizes or should realize as involving an unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily harm to such children, and

(c) the children because of their youth do not discover the condition or realize the risk involved in intermeddling in it or in coming within the area made dangerous by it, and

(d) the utility to the possessor of maintaining the condition is slight as compared to the risk to young children involved therein.

See Bartleson v. Glen Alden Coal Co., 361 Pa. 519 (Pa. 1949).

37. Plaintiff is attempting to make the claim that Objecting Defendants were aware of

the "attractive nuisance" the train tracks create and thus had a duty to protect against that nuisance.

38. However, there is no information within the Complaint that alleges Decedent was

a minor at the time of the incident and upon information and belief Decedent had reached the age

of majority.

39. At a minimum, allegations related to "attractive nuisance" should be stricken

without prejudice for insufficient specificity of pleading (to the extent the age of the Decedent is

arguably unclear).

40. However, to the extent that Plaintiff failed to specifically aver that the Decedent

was a minor, it can be fairly assumed for purposes of the pleadings that he had reached the age of

majority and, as a result, the doctrine of attractive nuisance does not apply to this case.

41. Finally, and setting aside the application of the attractive nuisance doctrine based

upon Plaintiff's age, it should further be noted that Plaintiff has specifically averred the train track

reside on Defendant SEPTA's property. See Exhibit A at ¶ 123.

42. Consequently, Plaintiff has not, and will not be able to establish, that the train tracks

were a condition maintained on Objecting Defendant's property, which is a condition precedent to

any attractive nuisance claim.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DPB

Partners, LP, respectfully request that this Honorable Court sustain their Preliminary Objections

to Plaintiff's Complaint and dismiss Plaintiffs' claims of negligence, wrongful death and survival with prejudice.

Preliminary Objection in The Nature Of A Motion To Dismiss And/or Strike Plaintiffs' Allegation Of Recklessness And Willful/Wanton Conduct Including Any Future Claim Of Punitive Damages Pa.R.C.P. NO. 1028(a)(2)-(4)

- 43. In support of their negligence claims against Objecting Defendants, Plaintiff inadequately avers that, the aforesaid incident was caused by the recklessness and willful/wanton conduct of the Objecting Defendants. See Exhibit A at ¶ 139.
- 44. [An] actor's conduct is in reckless disregard of the safety of another if he does an act or intentionally fails to do an act which it is his duty to the other to do, knowing or having reason to know of facts which would lead a reasonable man to realize, not only that his conduct creates an unreasonable risk of physical harm to another, but also that such risk is substantially greater than that which is necessary to make his conduct negligent. <u>United Servs. Auto. Ass'n v. Elitzky</u>, 517 A.2d 982, 989-90 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1986) (citing Restatement (Second) of Torts § 500).
- 45. "Reckless indifference to the interests of others", or as it is sometimes referred to, "wanton misconduct", means that "the actor has intentionally done an act of an unreasonable character, in disregard to a risk known to him or so obvious that he must be taken to have been aware of it, and so great as to make it highly probable that harm would follow." McClellan v. HMO, 604 A.2d 1053, 1061 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1992) (citations omitted).
- 46. Under Pennsylvania law, recklessness or wantonness requires a showing that the actor knew or had reason to know of facts which created a high degree of risk of physical harm to another and that the actor deliberately proceeded to act, or failed to act, in conscious disregard of, or indifference to, that risk. SHV Coal, Inc. v. Cont'l Grain Co., 587 A.2d 702, 704 (Pa. 1991)

(discussing the type of recklessness that must be shown for a finding of punitive damages under Pennsylvania law).

47. In the instant case, Plaintiff's Complaint is devoid of facts demonstrating that

Objecting Defendants knew or had reason to know that their conduct created an unreasonable risk

of physical harm to another or that such risk was substantially greater than that which is necessary

to make its conduct negligent.

48. Further, Plaintiff failed to aver facts tending to show that Objecting Defendants had

the state of mind required for a finding of recklessness and gross negligence in that Plaintiff failed

to aver any facts tending to show that Objecting Defendants deliberately acted, or failed to act, in

conscious disregard of a known high risk of harm to another.

49. Thus, even when read in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, the factual allegations

set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint support no more than a claim for ordinary negligence.

50. Moreover, while Plaintiff's Complaint avers Objecting Defendants acted

recklessly, it does not set forth a claim for punitive damages. Yet, the failure to do so is not

necessarily fatal to a future claim.

51. A plaintiff may amend a complaint to include a claim for punitive damages after

the expiration of the two-year statute of limitations where the complaint states a basis for the same.

Willett v. Evergreen Homes, Inc., 595 A.2d 164 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1991); 5 Std. Pa. Prac. 2d § 24:71

(October 2010). See Pl.'s Compl. Emphasis added.

52. "Gross negligence, as defined by the courts for the purpose of certain statutory

provisions, is insufficient as a matter of law to sustain a claim of punitive damages.

53. A showing of mere negligence, or even gross negligence, will not suffice to

establish that punitive damages should be imposed." Phillips v. Cricket Lighters, 584 Pa. 179, 883

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A.2d 439, 445 (2005) citing SHV Coal, Inc. v. Continental Grain Co., 526 Pa. 489, 587 A.2d 702,

705 (1991).

54. To establish the imposition of punitive damages, the plaintiff must adduce evidence

which goes beyond a showing of negligence, evidence sufficient to establish that the defendant's

acts amounted to "intentional, willful, wanton or reckless conduct...." Id. at 704 (citation omitted).

55. From SHV Coal and Phillips, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has clearly made a

distinction between negligence and punitive damages claims, with a plaintiff being required to

meet a far lesser burden to establish a negligence claim than that which is imposed in connection

with a punitive damages claim. This distinction is an important one.

56. Damages awarded in a negligence action compensate a plaintiff for his or her

losses. Punitive damages, in contrast, are not awarded to compensate the plaintiff for her damages

but rather to heap an additional punishment on a defendant who is found to have acted in a fashion

which is particularly egregious. G.J.D. by G.J.D. v. Johnson, 552 Pa. 169, 713 A.2d 1127, 1129

(1998).

57. Such a punishment should not be meted out to every defendant who is found to

have acted negligently; rather, it should be reserved for those cases in which the defendant has

acted in a particularly outrageous fashion.

58. Accordingly, since Plaintiff failed to plead any facts which would support its

allegation that Objecting Defendants were reckless, said allegation of recklessness and gross

negligence should be stricken from Plaintiff's Complaint so that Plaintiffs cannot assert a future

claim for punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Honorable Court strike and/or dismiss

the allegations of recklessness and wanton/willful conduct against Defendant Bryner Chevrolet

d/b/a Byner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP from Plaintiff's Complaint and any future claims of punitive damages with prejudice.

III. CONCLUSION

- 59. Again: the underlying factual averment against Objecting Defendants is that they failed to erect a fence to obstruct access to the adjacent railroad tracks, property which Plaintiff alleges was owned by SEPTA.
- 60. Pennsylvania law imposes no duty upon Defendants to erect such a fence. Moreover, Plaintiff's Complaint acknowledges that the Decedent crossed Objecting Defendants' property and entered onto the SEPTA-owned tracks of his own accord and volition.
- 61. While the Complaint stops short of averring that the Decedent intentionally took his own life, the allegations against the "Social Media Defendants" makes clear that the Decedent's behavior that day was not caused by any act or omission of Objecting Defendants.
- 62. Simply put: Objecting Defendant cannot and should be held liable for an act which occurred on another party's property (SEPTA) merely because the Decedent happened to cross Objecting Defendants' property in order to get to those tracks.
- 63. Plaintiff's Complaint is legally insufficient to support a valid cause of action against Objecting Defendants.
- 64. Additionally and alternatively, this Court should strike the insufficiently pled allegations against Objecting Defendants relating to any alleged "attractive nuisance" since (a) the Decedent is not alleged to be a minor at the time of the incident and (b) the incident did not allegedly occur on Objecting Defendants' property.
- 65. Finally, Objecting Defendants maintain that, at a minimum, there is no valid basis for claims of willful, wanton, or reckless conduct, and those claims should be stricken.

WHEREFORE, Objection Defendants respectfully request that this Court sustain these Preliminary Objections and enter an Order as Proposed, dismissing Plaintiff's Claims against Objecting Defendants in their entirety, with prejudice.

Dated: 01/22/2025

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: <u>Isl Benjamin C. Frommer</u>

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney for Defendant

Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, Inc.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 319993 By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney Identification No. 329562 1600 JFK Boulevard Four Penn Center, Suite 1060 Philadelphia, PA 19103 (267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599 Attorney for Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET AND DBP PARTNERS LP'S PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

I. MATTER BEFORE THE COURT

Presently before the Court are the Preliminary Objections of Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partner's (hereinafter "Objecting Defendants"), to Plaintiff's Complaint.

II. STATEMENT OF QUESTIONS INVOLVED

A. Should Plaintiff's Complaint asserting negligence, wrongful death, and survival action, be dismissed where Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate a legally sufficient claim for negligence against Objecting Defendants and where Pennsylvania has never established a duty of care upon landowners to prevent access to adjacent railway tracks?

Suggested Answer: Yes.

B. Should Plaintiff's Allegations and Mentions of Attractive Nuisance against Objecting Defendants be Stricken from the Amended Complaint as the Doctrine is Inapplicable to the Facts of the Case?

Suggested Answer: Yes.

C. Should Plaintiff's Allegations and Mentions of Recklessness and Wanton/willful conduct against Objection Defendants be Stricken as Plaintiffs Failed to Allege Specific Facts Establishing Conduct that Would be Deemed Reckless?

Suggested Answer: Yes.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, James Sullivan, Jr. as administrator of the Estate of John Micheal Sullivan, commenced this action, seeking recovery for the damages allegedly incurred as a result of decedent tragically stepping onto train tracks and being struck by a SEPTA train on January 4, 2023, in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Complaint is attached hereto as "Exhibit A." Plaintiff further avers that prior to this incident, decent was unfortunately involved in a sextortion plot where he was being threatened to pay unknown sums of money to a group from Nigeria, so explicit photographs would not be released to schoolmates, his family, and the public

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in general. See Exhibit A at ¶ 70-80. Plaintiff complaint then described that after "unyielding threats from the sextortionists, the Plaintiff's Decedent went to a nearby SEPTA train track, where was killed by a SEPTA train." See Id. at \P 81.

Objecting Defendant Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Byner Chevrolet is a car dealership that occupies the property located at 1750 the Fairway in Jenkintown, Pennsyvania. Defendant DBP Partners, LP owns the premises located at 1750 the Fairway in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. The property owned and maintained by Objecting Defendants abuts train tracks that are used and operated by Amtrak and Septa. Plaintiff alleges that Decedent crossed through Objecting Defendant's property in order to access the SEPTA train tracks were he ultimately died. See Id. at ¶87.

Plaintiff has deemed the decedent's death as a homicide. See Id. at ¶ 88. However, Plaintiff's complaint claims that Objecting Defendants observed the decedent "wandering in a distressed fashion in the area of the train tracks." See Id. at ¶ 138. Plaintiff further alleges Observing Defendants were negligent and reckless by observing the Decedent on their property, acting nervously, scared, and distressed in the area of the train tracks before he was struck and did not intervene or call the police. See Id. at ¶ 138 (p). While the Objecting Defendants are constrained to accept as true the well-pled facts averred in Plaintiff's complaint, it is Objecting Defendants understanding and belief that Decedent's death was the result of his intentional conduct (which may or may not have been caused by significant mental health distress).²

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² If Plaintiff Decedent's death is deemed a suicide, under McPeake v. William T. Cannon, Esquire, P.C., Plaintiff decedents's death by suicide cannot occasion a wrongful death recovery against Objecting Defendants. See McPeake v. William T. Cannon, Esquire, P.C., 381 Pa. Super. 227. Moving Defendants do not raise their legal demurrer at this time on that particular issue because, as currently pled, the Complaint describes the cause of death as "homicide."

Plaintiff seeks recovery under the theories of negligence, recklessness, and willful/wanton conduct (Count V), wrongful death (Count VI), and survival action (Count VII) alleging that the Objecting Defendant breached a purported duty of care owed to the decedent to erect fencing, disallowing access to the train tracks. See Exhibit A ¶ 139 (e, f, and h). The Complaint further alleges that Objecting Defendant was aware the train tracks created an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity. Id. at ¶136.

Objecting Defendants now submit these Preliminary Objections, as they had no duty of care under Pennsylvania law to affirmatively erect fencing to disallow access to train tracks adjacent to their property, nor can they be held liable for an "attractive nuisance" created by another party and owned, managed, and/or maintained by another party (i.e. SEPTA and/or Amtrak).

IV. ARGUMENT

A. LEGAL STANDARD

Pa.R.C.P. 1028(a)(4) permits a party to object to a pleading based on legal insufficiency in the nature of a demurrer.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has stated,

"[A] demurrer tests the legal sufficiency of the complaint. A trial court may sustain a demurrer, and thereby dismiss a claim, only when the law is clear that a plaintiff is not entitled to recovery based on the facts alleged in the complaint. In determining the merits of a demurrer, all well-pleaded, material facts set forth in the complaint and all inferences fairly deducible from those facts are considered admitted and are accepted by the trial court as true; conclusions of law are neither deemed admitted nor deemed true."

Ins. Adjustment Bureau, Inc. v. Allstate Ins. Co., 905 A.2d 462, 468 (Pa. 2006) (citations omitted). (Followed by Commonwealth v. UPMC, 208 A.3d 898, 908 (Pa. 2019)).

In Counts V, VI, and VII, of the Complaint, Plaintiffs attempt to assert liability claims against Objecting Defendants for negligence, wrongful death and survival. To succeed on a negligence claim, a plaintiff must prove four elements: (1) a duty or obligation recognized by law; (2) a breach of that duty; (3) a causal connection between the defendant's breach of duty and the plaintiffs injury; and (4) actual injury. Cooper v. Frankford Health Sys., Inc., 2008 PA Super 248, 960 A.2d 134, 140 n.2 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2008); see also R.W. v. Manzek, 585 Pa. 335, 888 A.2d 740, 746 (Pa. 2005).

The question presented by the demurrer is whether, on the facts averred, the law says with certainty that no recovery is possible." <u>Mistick Inc. v. Northwestern Nat'lCas. Co.</u>, 2002 PA Super 267, 806 A.2d 39, 42 (Pa. Super. 2002) (citation omitted).

Preliminary objections in the nature of a demurrer require the court to resolve the issues solely on the basis of the pleadings; no testimony or other evidence outside of the complaint may be considered to dispose of the legal issues presented by the demurrer. (citation omitted), <u>Cooper v. Frankford Health Care System, Inc.</u>, 2008 PA Super 248, 960 A.2d 134, 2008 WL 4615714, 6 (Pa.Super.) (Pa.Super., 2008).

Preliminary Objection in the Nature of a Motion to Dismiss and/or Strike Plaintiff's Complaint due based upon failure to state a valid claim of negligence

"To sustain preliminary objections in the nature of a demurrer, it must appear with certainty that, upon the facts averred, the law will not permit recovery by the plaintiff." <u>Harkins v. Zamichieli</u>, 266 Pa. Super. 401, 405 A.2d 495, 497 (Pa. Super. 1979)(quoting <u>Schott v. Westinghouse Electric Corporation</u>, 436 Pa. 279, 259 A.2d 443, 445 (Pa. 1969).

The sustaining of a demurrer results in the denial of a claim or the dismissal of a suit and should therefore be sustained only in cases that are clear and free from doubt. R.W. v. Manzek,

585 Pa. 335, 888 A.2d 740, 749 (Pa. 2005); <u>Bourke v. Kazaras</u>, 2000 PA Super 29, 746 A.2d 642, 643 (Pa.Super.Ct.2000).

a. Objecting Defendants had no duty to erect fences or barriers on its property because of its proximity to train tracks

Plaintiff avers that decedent walked through the "Premises Defendants" properties in order to gain access train tracks which abut both properties. See Exhibit A at 87. Further, Plaintiff avers that Objecting Defendants were negligent, reckless, and/or careless by virtue of their failure to install barriers that prevented pedestrians to gain access to the train tracks, failing to install fencing along the tracks, and/or failing to repair the lack of fencing around the train tracks. See Exhibit A at 139. In short: all of Plaintiff's claims against Objecting Defendants hinge on the assertion that Defendants had a duty of care to prevent persons from crossing their property and accessing the adjacent train tracks.

However, no such duty of care exists under Pennsylvania law. The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court established in Scarborough v Scarborough, that "it is well settled that the law imposes no duty upon a possessor of adjacent land to erect fencing or provide warnings so as to deter persons from entering a third party's property on which there exists a dangerous condition not created or maintained by the landowner and over which the landowner has no control." Kearns v. Rollins Outdoor Advertising, Inc., 89 Pa.Commw. 596, (1985); Magner v. Baptist Church, supra; Heller v. Consolidated Rail Corporation, 576 F. Supp. 6 (E.D. Pa.1982), aff'd 720 F.2d 662 (3d Cir.1983); Cousins v. Yaeger, 394 F. Supp. 595 (E.D.Pa.1975) (emphasis added).

The Court went on to state:

[&]quot;...[I]t would be incongruous to impose such a duty upon landowners adjacent to a railroad right-of-way when it long has been held that a railroad has no duty to erect fences on its right-of-way to deter trespassers." <u>Dugan v.</u>

<u>Pennsylvania Railroad Company</u>, 387 Pa. 25, 127 (1956); <u>Malischewski v. Pennsylvania Railroad Company</u>, supra. <u>Cousins</u>, 394 F. Supp. at 605. See also Lynch v. National Railroad Passenger Corporation, supra.

As noted above, Objecting Defendants have no legal duty to erect fences or provide warnings to deter a person from entering train tracks which Plaintiff acknowledges in the Complaint are not located on Objecting Defendants' property and which Objecting Defendants have no control over.

While Objecting Defendants have great sympathy for Plaintiff and recognize that Plaintiff may have a cognizable claim under the entirely separate theories posited against the so-called "Social Media Defendants," Objecting Defendants nonetheless aver that this Court should not establish a new and novel theory of liability against every landowner in Pennsylvania whose property happens to abut a railroad track. Indeed – and quite to the contrary – the Courts in this Commonwealth have routinely and uniformly held that there is *no such duty*. See Scarborough, supra.

Simply put: Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a legally cognizable claim because the underlying factual basis for the claims – that Objecting Defendants failed to erect a fence along the adjacent railroad tracks – is not sufficient to establish a duty of care. to the decedent, let alone claim a duty had been breached. Absent such facts, Plaintiffs' liability claims against Objection Defendants are legally insufficient and should be dismissed pursuant to Pa.R.Civ.P. 1028(a)(4).

b. Preliminary Objection Pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. (a)(4): Plaintiff Attempts to Allege the Application of the Attractive Nuisance Doctrine Even though it is Not Applicable to the Facts of the Case

Plaintiff alternatively claims that Objecting Defendants were aware that the train tracks, = posed an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area. <u>See</u> Complaint at ¶ 136..

Under the "attractive nuisance" doctrine, landowners have been held responsible for injuries to children caused by dangerous conditions on the land when children were to be anticipated, and the burden of making the place safe was comparatively slight in view of the serious risk involved. The Supreme Court has adopted the definition of attractive nuisance from the Restatement of the Law of Torts specifically at is applies to children.

The term has been defined as follows:

A possessor of land is subject to liability for bodily harm to **young children** trespassing thereon caused by a structure or other artificial condition which he maintains upon the land, if

- (a) the place where the condition is maintained is one upon which the possessor knows or should know that such children are likely to trespass, and
- (b) the condition is one of which the possessor knows or should know and which he realizes or should realize as involving an unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily harm to such children, and
- (c) the children because of their youth do not discover the condition or realize the risk involved in intermeddling in it or in coming within the area made dangerous by it, and
- (d) the utility to the possessor of maintaining the condition is slight as compared to the risk to young children involved therein.

See Bartleson v. Glen Alden Coal Co., 361 Pa. 519 (Pa. 1949).

Plaintiff is attempting to make the claim that Objecting Defendants were aware of the "attractive nuisance" the train tracks create and thus had a duty to protect against that nuisance. However, there is no information within the Complaint that alleges Decedent was a minor at the time of the incident and upon information and belief Decedent had reached the age of majority. At a minimum, allegations related to "attractive nuisance" should be stricken without prejudice for insufficient specificity of pleading (to the extent the age of the Decedent is arguably unclear). However, to the extent that Plaintiff failed to specifically aver that the Decedent was a minor, it can be fairly assumed for purposes of the pleadings that he had reached the age of majority and, as a result, the doctrine of attractive nuisance does not apply to this case.

Finally, and setting aside the application of the attractive nuisance doctrine based upon Plaintiff's age, it should further be noted that Plaintiff has specifically averred the train track reside on Defendant SEPTA's property. See Exhibit A at ¶ 123. Consequently, Plaintiff has not, and will not be able to establish, that the train tracks were a condition maintained on Objecting Defendant's property, which is a condition precedent to any attractive nuisance claim.

WHEREFORE, Defendants Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DPB Partners, LP, respectfully request that this Honorable Court sustain their Preliminary Objections to Plaintiff's Complaint and dismiss Plaintiff's claims of negligence, wrongful death and survival with prejudice.

Preliminary Objection in The Nature Of A Motion To Dismiss And/or Strike Plaintiffs' Allegation Of Recklessness And Willful/Wanton Conduct Including Any Future Claim Of Punitive Damages Pa.R.C.P. NO. 1028(a)(2)-(4)

In support of their negligence claims against Objecting Defendants, Plaintiff inadequately avers that, the aforesaid incident was caused by the recklessness and willful/wanton conduct of the Objecting Defendants. See Exhibit A at ¶ 139.

[An] actor's conduct is in reckless disregard of the safety of another if he does an act or intentionally fails to do an act which it is his duty to the other to do, knowing or having reason to know of facts which would lead a reasonable man to realize, not only that his conduct creates an unreasonable risk of physical harm to another, but also that such risk is substantially greater than that which is necessary to make his conduct negligent. <u>United Servs. Auto. Ass'n v. Elitzky</u>, 517 A.2d 982, 989-90 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1986) (citing Restatement (Second) of Torts § 500).

"Reckless indifference to the interests of others", or as it is sometimes referred to, "wanton misconduct", means that "the actor has intentionally done an act of an unreasonable character, in disregard to a risk known to him or so obvious that he must be taken to have been aware of it, and

so great as to make it highly probable that harm would follow." McClellan v. HMO, 604 A.2d 1053, 1061 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1992) (citations omitted). Under Pennsylvania law, recklessness or wantonness requires a showing that the actor knew or had reason to know of facts which created a high degree of risk of physical harm to another and that the actor deliberately proceeded to act, or failed to act, in conscious disregard of, or indifference to, that risk. SHV Coal, Inc. v. Cont'l Grain Co., 587 A.2d 702, 704 (Pa. 1991) (discussing the type of recklessness that must be shown for a finding of punitive damages under Pennsylvania law).

In the instant case, Plaintiff's Complaint is devoid of facts demonstrating that Objecting Defendants knew or had reason to know that their conduct created an unreasonable risk of physical harm to another or that such risk was substantially greater than that which is necessary to make its conduct negligent. Further, Plaintiff failed to aver facts tending to show that Objecting Defendants had the state of mind required for a finding of recklessness and gross negligence in that Plaintiff failed to aver any facts tending to show that Objecting Defendants deliberately acted, or failed to act, in conscious disregard of a known high risk of harm to another. Thus, even when read in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, the factual allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint support no more than a claim for ordinary negligence.

Moreover, while Plaintiff's Complaint avers Objecting Defendants acted recklessly, it does not set forth a claim for punitive damages. *Yet, the failure to do so is not necessarily fatal to a future claim.* A plaintiff may amend a complaint to include a claim for punitive damages after the expiration of the two-year statute of limitations where the complaint states a basis for the same. Willett v. Evergreen Homes, Inc., 595 A.2d 164 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1991); 5 Std. Pa. Prac. 2d § 24:71 (October 2010). See Pl.'s Compl. Emphasis added.

"Gross negligence, as defined by the courts for the purpose of certain statutory provisions, is insufficient as a matter of law to sustain a claim of punitive damages. A showing of mere negligence, or even gross negligence, will not suffice to establish that punitive damages should be imposed." Phillips v. Cricket Lighters, 584 Pa. 179, 883 A.2d 439, 445 (2005) citing SHV Coal, Inc. v. Continental Grain Co., 526 Pa. 489, 587 A.2d 702, 705 (1991). To establish the imposition of punitive damages, the plaintiff must adduce evidence which goes beyond a showing of negligence, evidence sufficient to establish that the defendant's acts amounted to "intentional, willful, wanton or reckless conduct...." *Id.* at 704 (citation omitted).

From SHV Coal and Phillips, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has clearly made a distinction between negligence and punitive damages claims, with a plaintiff being required to meet a far lesser burden to establish a negligence claim than that which is imposed in connection with a punitive damages claim. This distinction is an important one. Damages awarded in a negligence action compensate a plaintiff for his or her losses. Punitive damages, in contrast, are not awarded to compensate the plaintiff for her damages but rather to heap an additional punishment on a defendant who is found to have acted in a fashion which is particularly egregious. G.J.D. by G.J.D. v. Johnson, 552 Pa. 169, 713 A.2d 1127, 1129 (1998).

Such a punishment should not be meted out to every defendant who is found to have acted negligently; rather, it should be reserved for those cases in which the defendant has acted in a particularly outrageous fashion. Accordingly, since Plaintiff failed to plead any facts which would support its allegation that Objecting Defendants were reckless, said allegation of recklessness and gross negligence should be stricken from Plaintiff's Complaint so that Plaintiffs cannot assert a future claim for punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Honorable Court strike and/or dismiss the allegations of recklessness and wanton/willful conduct against Defendants Bryner Chevrolet d/b/a Byner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP from Plaintiff's Complaint and any future claims of punitive damages with prejudice.

V. CONCLUSION

The underlying factual averment against Objecting Defendants is that they allegedly failed to erect a fence to obstruct access to the adjacent railroad tracks where Plaintiff-Decedent tragically lost his life. Plaintiff acknowledges through the Complaint that this tragedy occurred on the property owned by SEPTA, over which Objecting Defendants had absolutely no dominion or control. The sole basis for Plaintiff's theory of liability is that Objecting Defendants allegedly failed to prevent the Decedent from entering upon SEPTA's property.

Pennsylvania law imposes no duty upon Defendants to erect a fence between its own property and SEPTA's. Moreover, Plaintiff's Complaint acknowledges that the Decedent crossed Objecting Defendants' property and entered onto the SEPTA-owned tracks of his own accord and volition. While the Complaint stops short of averring that the Decedent intentionally took his own life, the allegations against the "Social Media Defendants" makes clear that the Decedent's behavior that day was not caused by any alleged act or omission of Objecting Defendants.

Simply put: Objecting Defendant cannot and should be held liable for an act which occurred on another party's property (SEPTA) merely because the Decedent happened to cross Objecting Defendants' property in order to get to those tracks. Plaintiff's Complaint is legally insufficient to support a valid cause of action against Objecting Defendants.

Additionally and alternatively, this Court should strike the insufficiently pled allegations against Objecting Defendants relating to any alleged "attractive nuisance" since (a) the Decedent

is not alleged to be a minor at the time of the incident and (b) the incident did not allegedly occur on Objecting Defendants' property. Finally, Objecting Defendants maintain that, at a minimum, there is no valid basis for claims of willful, wanton, or reckless conduct, and those claims should be stricken.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/22/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire Attorney for Defendants Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner

Chevrolet and DBP Partners, Inc.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP
By: Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire
Attorney Identification No. 319993
By: Chelsea A. Williams, Esquire
Attorney Identification No. 329562
1600 JFK Boulevard
Four Penn Center, Suite 1060
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(267) 861-7585 / (267) 861-7599
bfrommer@tthlaw.com / cwilliams@tthlaw.com

Attorney for Defendants, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC. F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 1-5, JOHN DOE CORP. 1-5, SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA, ROBERT MILSON, BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC. 5-10, JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC and JOHN DOE COPR. 5-10,

COI IC. 5 1

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

NO.: 241202765

CIVIL ACTION

Defendants.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire, do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Preliminary Objections was filed this date via the Philadelphia County Court of

Common Pleas E-Filing System and thereby deemed served on all counsel of record pursuant to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure and Philadelphia County Local Rules.

THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER LLP

Dated: 01/22/2025 By: Isl Benjamin C. Frommer

Benjamin C. Frommer, Esquire Attorney for Defendants

Bryner Chevrolet, Inc. d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet and DBP Partners, LP

Case 2:25-cv-00456-KBH Document 1-4 Filed 01/27/25 Page 117 of 172

EXHIBIT "A"

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER LAW

BY: Kevin P. O'Brien, Esquire

ID No.: 313081

BY: Tyler Stampone, Esquire

ID No.: 324400 500 Cottman Avenue Cheltenham, PA 19012

(215)663-0400

DICELLO LEVITT

BY: Diandra Debrosse, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

Eli Hare, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

Grant Patterson, Esquire (pro hac vice forthcoming)

505 20th Street North, Suite 1500 Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Attorneys for Plaintiff

THIS IS A MAJOR JURY MATTER

James Sullivan, Jr. Administrator COURT OF COMMON PLEAS of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

619 Edgley Avenue Glenside, PA 19038

VS.

META PLATFORMS, INC. f/k/a DECEMBER TERM, 2024

FACEBOOK, INC. 1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025 NO.:

AND

FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC.

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

INSTGRAM, LLC 1 Hacker Way Menlo Park, California 94025

AND

SNAP, INC. 2772 Donald Douglass Loop North Santa Monica, CA 90405

AND

JOHN DOE INC. 1-5 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

JOHN DOE CORP 1-5 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY A/K/A SEPTA 1234 Market Street Philadelphia, PA, 19107

AND

ROBERT MILSON 1234 Market Street Philadelphia, PA, 19107

AND

BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC. d/b/a BRYNER CHEVROLET 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

DBP PARTNERS, LP 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

DB Pete, Inc., 1750 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

JOHN DOE, INC., 5-10 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

AND

JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

HOPKINS FORD, INC., 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP 1650 The Fairway Jenkintown, PA 19046

AND

KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT, LLC 620 Bustleton Pike Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053

AND

JOHN DOE CORP., 5-10 A Fictitious Name Designated Pursuant to The Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance person-ally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defense objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

Philadelphia Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service One Reading Center Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 238-1701

AVISO

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha de la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita o en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea a visado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continuar la demanda en contra suya sin previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte puede decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede pere dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

Lleva esta demanda a un abogado immediatamente. Si no tiene abogado o si no tiene el dinero suficiente de pagar tal servicio. Vaya en persona o llame por telefono a la oficina cuya direccion se encuentra escrita abajo para averiguar donde se puede conseguir asistencia legal.

Asociacion de Licenciados de Filadelfia Servicio de Referencia e Informacion Legal One Reading Center Filadelfia, PA 19107 (215) 238-1701

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

THIS IS A MAJOR JURY MATTER

James Sullivan, Jr. Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

619 Edgley Avenue Glenside, PA 19038 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

VS.

META PLATFORMS, INC. f/k/a

FACEBOOK, INC.

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California 94025

DECEMBER TERM, 2024

NO.:

AND

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FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 1 Hacker Way Menlo Park, California 94025

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AND

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT IN A CIVIL ACTION

- 1. Plaintiff's decedent John Michael Sullivan was an individual and citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who suffered a wrongful death on or about January 4, 2023.
- 2. Plaintiff, James Sullivan, Jr., was appointed Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan on April 10th, 2023. Said estate has a mailing address of 619 Edgley Ave, Glenside, PA 19038. A copy of the Letters of Administration are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 3. Plaintiffs Kathleen Sullivan and James Sullivan, Jr., are adult individuals with a service address of 619 Edgley Ave, Glenside, PA 19038 and who were at all times relevant hereto the parents and natural guardians of Plaintiff's Decedent John Michael Sullivan.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA DEFENDANTS

- 4. Defendant, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware licensed to transact business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business and/or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.
- 5. Defendant, Facebook Holdings, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.

6. Defendant, Facebook Operations, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.

7. Defendant, Facebook Technologies, LLC, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.

8. Defendant, Instagram, LLC is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, California.

9. Defendant, SNAP, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with a principal place of business and/or a service address located at 2772 Donald Douglass Loop North, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

10. Defendant, JOHN DOE Inc., 1-5 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the design, coding, safety, testing, engineering, warnings, of the Social Media Applications Instagram and Facebook and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.

11. Defendant, JOHN DOE Corp 1-5 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

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which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge

of, or had responsibility for overseeing the design, coding, safety, testing, engineering, warnings,

of the Social Media Application SnapChat and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.

12. These Defendants may be referred to throughout this Complaint as "The Social

Media Defendants."

THE SEPTA DEFENDANTS

13. Defendant, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority a/k/a SEPTA (and

referred to herein as "SEPTA") is a municipal corporation, political subdivision and/or other

Commonwealth Agency/entity organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania, with its principal place of business or address for service located at 1234 Market

Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

14. Defendant Robert Milson, is identified as the engineer and/or operator who was in

control of the movement of the train and who was at all times within the course and scope of his

employment with SEPTA which struck the Plaintiff's Decedent and who has a place of business

or address for service located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

15. These Defendants may be referred to herein as the "SEPTA Defendants."

THE PREMISES LIABILITY DEFENDANTS

16. Defendant, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, is a corporation,

partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious

name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

with a principal place of business or a service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown,

PA 19046.

17. Defendant, DBP Partners, LP, is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership,

limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

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organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business

or a service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

18. Defendant, DB Pete, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited

liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity organized

under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business or a

service address located at 1750 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

19. Defendant, JOHN DOE Inc., 5-10 is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership,

limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was in charge

of, or had responsibility for overseeing the management, maintenance, operations, security,

cameras and which was otherwise in control of Bryner Chevrolet located at 1750 The Fairway,

Jenkintown, PA 19046 and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005

20. Defendant, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, is a corporation, partnership, limited

partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other

legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place

of business or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

21. Defendant, Hopkins Ford, Inc., is a corporation, partnership, limited partnership,

limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other legal entity

organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal place of business

or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

22. Defendant, Kennedy Real Estate Associates, L.P., is a corporation, partnership,

limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or

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other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a principal

place of business or a service address located at 1650 The Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

23. Defendant, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, is a corporation,

partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious

name and/or other legal entity organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

with a principal place of business or a service address located at 620 Bustleton Pike, Feasterville

Trevose, PA 19053.

24. Defendant, JOHN DOE Corp 5-10 is a corporation, partnership, limited

partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, fictitious name and/or other

legal entity which has not been able to be identified despite significant investigation, but who was

in charge of, or had responsibility for overseeing the management, maintenance, operations,

security, cameras and which was otherwise in control of Kennedy Ford located at 1650 The

Fairway, Jenkintown, PA 19046 and is identified pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 2005.

25. These Defendants may be referred to as the "Premises Liability Defendants."

26. Venue is proper in Philadelphia County as one or more of the Defendants regularly

conduct business in Philadelphia County. In particular, and without limitation to other Defendants,

the Social Media Defendants have millions of users in Philadelphia County.

27. Venue is proper in Philadelphia County as SEPTA is a Commonwealth Party and

because the local and principal office of SEPTA is located in Philadelphia County at 1234 Market

Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

28. Social media applications are products. They are designed, coded, engineered,

manufactured, produced, assembled, and placed into the stream of commerce. They were designed

to be used or consumed by the public as part of the regular business of social media companies,

including the Social Media Defendants. They are mass-marketed, designed to be used by billions of consumers, and designed and advertised in such a way to appeal to the general public and, in particular, adolescents.

- 29. Social media apps are akin to tangible products. When installed or used on devices, they have a definite appearance and location and are operated by a series of gestures, clicks, swipes, and user-interface actions. They are both personal, moveable, and downloadable.
- 30. According to Tristen Harris, a former Google Design Ethicist, social media product designers maximize capitalizing on user attention by "play[ing] your psychological vulnerabilities (consciously and unconsciously) against you in the race to grab your attention."
- 31. Algorithms play a vital role in the race for attention-using machine learning and data science to generate content based on the likelihood that the user will want to see the suggested content.²
- 32. Social media apps are designed to be addictive. Based upon their design, interactions with the apps can release large amounts of dopamine into a user's brain's reward pathway—much like highly-addictive substances.³

Tristan Harris, *How Technology is Hijacking Your Mind – from a Magician and Google Design Ethicist*, MEDIUM (May 18, 2016) https://medium.com/thrive-global/how-technology-hijacks-peoples-minds-from-a-magician-and-google-s-design-ethicist-56d62ef5edf3.

Brent Barnhart, *Everything you need to know about social media algorithms*, SPROUT SOCIAL (Mar. 26, 2021), https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/.

Jim Zhao, et al., Risk Factors Associated with Social Media Addiction: An Exploratory Study, Frontiers in Psychology (Apr. 14, 2022), https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9046602/; Bruce Goldman, Addictive potential of social media, explained, Stanford Medicine Scope (Oct. 29, 2021), https://scopeblog.stanford.edu/2021/10/29/addictive-potential-of-social-media-explained/; Jena Hilliard, New Study Suggests Excessive Social Media Use Is Comparable to Drug Addiction, Addiction Center (Sept. 4, 2019), https://www.addictioncenter.com/news/2019/09/excessive-social-media-use/; Sherri Gordon,

- 33. Perhaps most tellingly about the negative effects that social media has on children, tech moguls do not let their children use social media.⁴
- 34. Addiction to social media is by design: the more an individual interacts with an app, the more money the social media company makes. This is because each interaction with a user allows more opportunities to monetize that user's interactions to sell advertising access.⁵
- 35. The addictive quality of social media usage is further increased when users engage in mental rituals like following certain accounts or posting frequently to stay in touch with friends.⁶ social media increasingly replaces physical human interactions, leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and fear.⁷
- 36. Young people are particularly susceptible to social media addiction than older adults, and young people aged 16 to 25 have the highest rates of social media-related mental illness.⁸

Excessive Social Media Use Comparable to Drug Addiction, VERYWELLMIND (updated July 17, 2019), https://www.verywellmind.com/excessive-social-media-use-4690882.

⁴ Kristin Conrad, *The Real Reason Tech Moguls Don't Let Their Kids on Social Media*, THE LIST (Dec. 6, 2021, 9:07 AM EST), https://www.thelist.com/677684/the-real-reason-tech-moguls-dont-let-their-kids-on-social-media/.

Catherine Price, *Trapped—the secret ways social media is built to be addictive (and what you can do to fight back)*, BBC SCIENCE FOCUS MAGAZINE (Oct. 29, 2018), https://www.sciencefocus.com/future-technology/trapped-the-secret-ways-social-media-is-built-to-be-addictive-and-what-you-can-do-to-fight-back/.

Werner Geyser, *The Real Social Media Addiction Stats for 2023*, INFLUENCER MARKETING HUB (updated Dec. 14, 2022), https://influencermarketinghub.com/social-media-addiction-stats/.

Alice G. Walton, *Social Media May Make You Feel Socially Isolated: Study*, FORBES (Mar. 6, 2017, 2:06 PM EST), https://www.forbes.com/sites/alicegwalton/2017/03/06/social-media-and-social-isolation-go-hand-in-hand-but-which-comes-first/?sh=23dcc79d1785.

Michael Simon, *The Alarming Reality of Social Media Addiction Statistics in 2023*, TECHREPORT (May 16, 2023, 3:02 AM), https://techreport.com/statistics/social-media-addiction-statistics/.

- 37. Chris Said, who has a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton University and who has worked at both Facebook and Twitter, noted that "[s]ocial media was like a nuclear bomb on teen social life I don't think there's anything in recent memory, or even distant history, that has changed the way teens socialize as much as social media."
- 38. Adolescents spend between five to seven hours per day on social media, and roughly half of them believe that they spend "too much time" on social media. 10
 - 39. Social media companies, including the Social Media Defendants, know all of this.
- 40. In a Harvard Business Review article discussing social media addiction, for example,

[P]sychologist Nicholas Kardaras explains that the people behind Facebook and Instagram not only designed their platforms to be wildly addictive but have kept them that way even amid mounting evidence that social media overuse has a horrible effect on people's mental and physical well-being. (The same is true for Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and most other social media.)¹¹

- 41. Social media companies, including the social media Defendants, specifically designed the platforms to be addictive.
- 42. In fact, Facebook's founding president, Sean Parker, "said publicly that the company set out to consume as much user time as possible. He claimed it was 'exploiting a

Michaeleen Doucleff, *The truth about teens, social media and the mental health crisis*, NPR (Apr. 25, 2023, 9:28 AM ET), https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/25/1171773181/social-media-teens-mental-health.

Tonya Mosley and Serena McMahon, *Social Media Use Linked to Anxiety, Depression Among Teens, New Study Finds*, WBUR (Jan. 9, 2020), https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/01/09/social-media-anxiety-depression-teens.

Kelsey Gripenstraw, *Our Social Media Addiction*, HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW (Nov.-Dec. 2022), https://hbr.org/2022/11/our-social-media-addiction.

vulnerability in human psychology.' 'The inventors,' he said, 'understood this consciously and we did it anyway.'"¹²

- 43. And social media apps like Snapchat are known as "ranked among the worst social media for mental health."¹³
- 44. Social Media Defendants have known for a long time that their products—not only designed to be addictive—*are* addictive.
- 45. Former Facebook employee Sandy Parakilas, for example, described social media as "very similar to a slot machine," after he tried to stop using the service following leaving the company in 2012. Notably, he said "[i]t literally felt like I was quitting cigarettes." Furthermore,

[D]uring his year and five months at Facebook, he said, others had also recognized this risk.

"There was definitely an awareness of the fact that the product was habit-forming and addictive," he said.

"You have a business model designed to engage you and get you to basically suck as much time out of your life as possible and then selling that attention to advertisers." ¹⁶

Hilary Andersson, *Social media apps are 'deliberately' addictive to users*, BBC NEWS (July 4, 2018), https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-44640959.

Snapchat Addiction: The Darkside of a Popular Worldwide App, Solstice (Oct. 26, 2017), https://solsticertc.com/snapchat-addiction-darkside-popular-worldwide-app/ (stating that "Snapchat ranked among the worst social media for mental health"). See also Julie Kelly, Confronting my daughter's addiction. To Snapchat., HUFFINGTON POST (updated Feb. 2, 2017), https://www.huffpost.com/entry/confronting-my-daughters b 9138986.

Andersson, *supra* note 88.

¹⁵ *Id*.

¹⁶ *Id*.

46. The addictive nature of the applications and platforms is especially damaging for teens and young people. MRI brain studies show that students who use social media more frequently had increased activation points of their brain, "possibly making them more prone to peer feedback and hypersensitivity and possibly leading to changes in impulse control and regulation, according to ABC News chief medical correspondence Dr. Jennifer Ashton." ¹⁷

47. **Social media usage's dopamine rush impacts the ventral striatum**. Between the ages of ten and twelve, changes in the brain make social rewards—compliments on clothing or positive feedback—start to feel more satisfying. Specifically, receptors for oxytocin and dopamine multiply in a part of the brain called the ventral striatum, making preteens extra sensitive to attention and admiration from others.¹⁸

48. Social media provides a mechanism to experience these "social rewards," giving the ventral striatum "a dopamine and oxytocin rush whenever we experience social rewards." And, "[r]ight next door to the ventral striatum lies the ventral pallidum, a region of the brain key for motivating action. These structures, which lie beneath the more recently evolved cortex, are older parts of the brain that drive instinctual behaviors." ²⁰

Haley Yamada and Katie Kindelan, *Social media use linked to brain changes in teens, study finds*, ABC NEWS (Jan. 5, 2023, 10:55 AM), https://digital.abcaudio.com/news/social-media-use-linked-brain-changes-teens-study-finds.

Zara Abrams, *Why young brains are especially vulnerable to social media*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (updated Aug. 25, 2022), https://www.apa.org/news/apa/2022/social-media-children-teens.

¹⁹ *Id*.

²⁰ *Id*.

- 49. Teens continue to seek out approval and acceptance via these "social rewards" on social media and, if they do not receive them, become isolated and feel lonelier.²¹
- bealthy development of the prefrontal cortex. Social media platforms often promote a culture of comparison, where teenagers constantly compare themselves to their peers in terms of appearance, achievements, and social status. This continuous exposure to idealized and curated representations of others' lives can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and increased social anxiety. The prefrontal cortex, involved in self-reflection and emotional regulation, can be impacted by the constant pressure and negative emotions resulting from social comparison, potentially hindering healthy brain development.²²
- 51. Social media usage leads to impulsive decision-making and risk-taking behavior. The prefrontal cortex is responsible for regulating impulsive behaviors and assessing risks. Social media platforms often encourage instant gratification, impulsive reactions, and seeking novelty. This can contribute to a greater inclination towards impulsive decision-making and risk-taking behavior, as teenagers may engage in potentially harmful activities driven by the desire for social validation or the need to conform to online trends. Such behavior can negatively impact the

Cory Turner, 10 things to know about how social media affects teens' brains, NPR (Feb. 16, 2023, 12:01 PM ET), https://www.npr.org/2023/02/16/1157180971/10-things-to-know-about-how-social-media-affects-teens-brains; Written Testimony of Mitch Prinstein, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Science Officer, American Psychological Association, Protective Our Children Online, U.S. Senate Committee on Judiciary (Feb. 14, 2023), https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2023-02-14%20-%20Testimony%20-%20Prinstein.pdf.

Michelle Achterberg, et al., Longitudinal associations between social media use, mental well-being and structural brain development across adolescence, DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE (Apr. 2022), https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S18789293 22000329?via%3Dihub; Eveline A. Crone and Emily A. Konijn, Media use and brain development during adolescence, NATURE COMMUNICATIONS (Feb. 21, 2018), https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-03126-x.

development of the frontal cortex, which is responsible for evaluating consequences and exercising self-control.²³

52. Social media usage reduces face-to-face interactions, retarding the development of social skills. Excessive reliance on social media for social interactions can reduce face-to-face interactions, which are crucial for the development of social skills and emotional intelligence. The prefrontal cortex is involved in understanding and navigating social dynamics, including interpreting facial expressions, body language, and non-verbal cues. Reduced face-to-face interactions may limit opportunities for teenagers to develop and refine these social skills, potentially affecting the maturation of the frontal cortex, and possibly leading to the development of narcissistic tendencies.²⁴

The Known Prevalence of Sextortion on the Defendant's Social Media Application Products

- 53. The use of the Social Media Defendant's products by criminals and predators to target minors and teenagers is well documented and known. There has never been a larger pool of victims at the fingertips of these predators that through the use of the Defendant's products.
- 54. The victims themselves are often addicted and consumed by the product's use, and spend upwards of 8 hours a day on these products which makes them easy targets who are available at all times to be targeted by sexual scammers and extortionists.

Screen Addiction Affects Physical and Mental Health, PREMIER HEALTH (May 11, 2023), https://www.premierhealth.com/your-health/articles/health-topics/screen-addiction-affects-physical-and-mental-health.

Anthony Silard, Ph.D., *The Role of Social Media in Our Empathy Crisis*, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (July 11, 2022), https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-art-living-free/202207/the-role-social-media-in-our-empathy-crisis; Yamila Lezcano LHMC, *How Social Media Affects Mental Health in Adolescents*, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (Aug. 25, 2021), https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/becoming-resilient/202108/how-social-media-affects-mental-health-in-adolescents">https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/becoming-resilient/202108/how-social-media-affects-mental-health-in-adolescents.

- 55. The FBI has warned in reports that "financial sextortion . . . mainly occurs on the digital platforms where children are already spending their screen time, like social med, gaming websites, or video chat applications. On these platforms, predators often pose as girls of a similar age and use fake accounts to target young boys, deceiving them into sending explicit photos or videos. The predator then threatens to release the compromising materials unless the victim sends payment."²⁵
 - 56. This is precisely what happened to the Plaintiff's Decedent in the instant case.
- 57. Defendants have facilitated and exacerbated the risk of sextortion in the design of their product and its warnings by implementing defective product features that help sexual predators connect with adolescents, teenagers, children, and young people such as the Plaintiff's Decedent, including the lack of meaningful mechanisms to prevent sham accounts (or warn users of the existence of such accounts and scams), default-public profiles, matching and recommending connections between people with no known connection, from high risk areas for criminal activity such as, in this case, Nigeria, and promoting unsolicited messages and interactions from individuals from such areas, or individuals with numerous accounts under the same name, IP address, stock photos, re-used photos and/or images from other numerous other profiles, mass messages from accounts with these characteristics, particularly messages to diverse and far away geographic areas including those which are associated with children, adolescent and young people such as the Plaintiff's Decedent (in this case college campuses), messages from an unconnected

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²⁵ International Law Enforcement Agencies Issue Joint Warning about global financial sextortion crisis, FBI (2023), https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/international-law-enforcementagencies-issue-joint-warning-about-global-financial-sextortion-crisis

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account from such high-risk areas, and other features which easily identify the accounts as sham

accounts indicative of criminal activity, sextortion at the top of that list.

58. Further, Defendant's applications do nothing to prevent, or even warn users about

the dangers or risks of interacting with these accounts, or the dangers of sending nude pictures to

such accounts which are suspicious for fraudulent activity, and provide no (or at least no easily

accessible) design or warning mechanism to report such an account after a scam is initiated.

59. These individuals, criminals, and organizations have used the Social Media

Defendants' applications for this very reason – their design which renders them dangerous and

defective, and the lack of warnings or other reasonable safety measures associated with these

products provide the perfect conduit and opportunity to engage in sextortion and other fraudulent

criminal schemes.

The practice of sextortion and fraudulent activities is well known to the Defendants. 60.

Despite knowledge of the pervasiveness of this problem and the existence of mass 61.

numbers of sham accounts being used for sextortion well in advance of the Plaintiff's Decedent's

death, it was not until July of 2024, Meta deleted over 60,000 accounts operated by Nigerians

which were linked to financial sextortion scams, and other crimes.²⁶

62. Meta identified these accounts, and disabled them using "a combination of new

technical signals we've developed to help identify sextorters. . . the majority of these accounts had

already been detected and disabled by our enforcement systems and this investigation allowed us

²⁶ https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-07-24/meta-removes-63-000-accounts-linked-

to-sextortion-scammers?embedded-checkout=true

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to remove the remaining accounts and understand more about the techniques being used to improve

our automated detection."²⁷

63. These "technical signals" were economically and technologically feasible and

should have been implemented by the Social Media Defendants well in advance of the Plaintiff's

Decedent's sextortion and death.

64. In simple terms, the Social Media Defendants have known for years about the

prevalence of sextortion on their social media applications, yet have taken insufficient steps to

design their product with safety features and/or warnings which would protect their users,

including those such as the Plaintiff's Decedent who was a prototypical victim for these

individuals, a young adult male who was a regular user of the Social Media Defendants' products.

65. There was nothing preventing these measures, design changes, and/or reasonable

warnings from being implemented and integrated into the application products well in advance of

January 4, 2023 as they were both technologically available, feasible, and necessary to make these

products reasonably safe for use by adolescents, teens, children, and young people such as the

Plaintiff's Decedent.

66. Without these measures, and other reasonable design changes and warnings to the

users, the products were unreasonably dangerous and defective under Pennsylvania Law.

67. The failure to design their applications with sufficient protections which would

prevent users from engaging in such pervasive and obviously illegal and fraudulent behavior was

a substantial contributing factor and caused the Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death.

²⁷ https://about.fb.com/news/2024/07/combating-financial-sextortion-scams-from-nigeria/

Plaintiff's Decedent's Use of the Social Media Application Products

68. Plaintiff's Decedent has been a social media user for many years, in particular,

Instagram, and SnapChat.

69. He spent much of his spare time interacting online, as described generally above.

70. In January of 2023 the Plaintiff's Decedent was contacted by a third party through

the Instagram app.

71. This third party was a scammer from Nigeria who was part of an organized criminal

operation which targeted teenagers - often minors - through mass Instagram messages in an

attempt to get them to "bite" at the bait they sent.

72. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's Decedent was targeted based upon his

location at a college campus – Kutztown University – where he was a college student.

73. This conversation began when the Plaintiff's Decedent was targeted by an account

from this Nigerian criminal group who were regular "Yahoo Boys", a loosely affiliated criminal

group who made their living running these sextortion scams primarily through Instagram,

Facebook and Snap.

74. This first contact made through Instagram Direct Message was one of thousands of

messages sent out by the sextortionists, a common and well known tactic to the Social Media

Defendants which is highly suspicious for illegal and fraudulent activity.

75. The Plaintiff's Decedent took the "bait" and responded to the scammers under the

pretense that he was conversing with a young woman of his age who was looking to establish a

relationship, and asking him for compromising photos of himself, which he eventually sent.

76. After the scam bait was laid on Instagram, the sextortionists suggested moving the

conversation to Snap, where additional compromising photographs of the Plaintiff's Decedent

were sent.

77. The reason the sextortionists moved the conversation to Snap was because of their

knowledge of the defective and dangerous design of Snap where messages "disappear" and the

lack of sufficient warnings to users such as the Plaintiff's Decedent that the messages contain

nudity and the application lacks a nudity filter which would warn the user that they are sending

messages to an account in an area suspicious and associated with criminal activity, scams, outside

of the United States, or other warnings to the user of the prevalence of such scams so that the user

may be warned about the information in the Social Media Defendants' possession that these photos

may be used as part of a scam.

78. The conversation immediately turned to extortion upon receipt of the

compromising photos, with the criminals incessantly threatening to release the photos to the

Plaintiff's Decedent's college board on Facebook, harm the Plaintiff's family, and more.

79. The Plaintiff's Decedent attempted to send the money the sextortionists were

requesting, but these attempts were stifled as the transfers were identified as fraudulent, so the

Decedent could only send about \$2,800 (which itself was spread across 6 or 7 transactions) and

the sextortionists were asking for more.

80. When the Plaintiff's Decedent could not send them further funds, these criminals

used the Social Media Defendants' products to threaten Plaintiff's Decedent and his family,

including threats to physically harm him, physically harm his family, and release the sensitive

photos to Plaintiff's Decedent's family, friends and school.

81. After these further and unyielding threats from the sextortionists, the Plaintiff's

Decedent went to a nearby SEPTA train track, where he was killed by a SEPTA train.

82. This action was the direct consequence of the horrible pressure, negative emotions,

impulsive decision making, and the impact on the social development, emotions, mind and psyche

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of the Plaintiff's Decedent as a result of the design of the Social Media Defendants' algorithms

and addictive intention and design.

83. The Plaintiff's Decedent, a social media user for many years since his early

adolescent age, including specifically Instagram, Facebook, and SnapChat, was deeply and

negatively impacted by the design of these social media applications which were designed to

maximize the amount of time a user is on the application in order to maximize their profits from

each user.

84. Were it not for the impact the Social Media Defendants' application had on the

Plaintiff's Decedent's social development, emotions, mind and psyche by way of its addictive

design, and lack of warnings about these impacts, the Plaintiff's Decedent would not have suffered

the harm he did as set forth herein.

Plaintiff's Decedent is Killed on SEPTA Tracks, by a SEPTA Train

85. The Plaintiff's Decedent then went to the train tracks which are owned and operated

by the Defendant, SEPTA where he was killed by a train which was owned, operated and under

the control of SEPTA and their engineer.

86. The train was travelling towards Noble Station in Jenkintown, where, upon

information and belief, the train intended to stop just several hundred feet away from where the

Plaintiff's Decedent was killed, and therefore should have, if the engineer had been operating the

train carefully, been able to sound the horn, or otherwise stop the train in order to avoid striking

the Plaintiff's Decedent.

87. He accessed these tracks by traversing the properties of John Kennedy Ford of

Jenkintown and Bryner Chevrolet of Jenkintown located at 1650 and 1750 The Fairway,

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Jenkintown, PA.

88. These properties are owned, managed, controlled maintained by one or more of the Premises Liability Defendants.

89. Because of the circumstances set forth above, the cause of death is in effect, a homicide.

90. Upon information and belief, the tracks were accessible by the Plaintiff's Decedent as a result of the failure to maintain and/or fence the area surrounding the tracks.

91. This area is known to be accessible by pedestrians as it is in the area of a high pedestrian area, a shopping center, several businesses, a residential neighborhood, and a commuter train station.

92. Upon information and belief there have been numerous complaints and near misses related to potential collisions involving SEPTA trains and pedestrians.

93. For example, on February 8, 2013, a 20-year-old Ardsley man was struck by a SEPTA commuter train in this area²⁸.

94. Again, on April 7, 2014, a 20-year-old man from Jenkintown was struck and killed in and/or about the area of the tracks in this area.²⁹

95. Again, on October 20, 2017, a pedestrian was struck and killed by a SEPTA train at or near the Jenkintown train station.³⁰

96. As there is a high degree of pedestrian activity in the area of the location where this incident occurred, Defendant SEPTA knew or should have known about this activity and should have taken reasonable steps to prevent access to this area of tracks, which they failed to do.

²⁸ https://www.abingtonpd.org/pedestrian-struck-by-train/

²⁹ https://www.abingtonpd.org/pedestrian-struck-by-train-2/

³⁰ https://6abc.com/pennsylvania-news-jenkintown-septa-person-hit-by-train/2553315/

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97. In fact, the incident is, upon information and belief, depicted on video of not only

SEPTA, but also one or more of the Premises Liability Defendants who, at the time of the incident

and for a sufficient time leading up to it, had one of their employees, agents, workman, and/or

contractors watching the Plaintiff's Decedent in real time on surveillance video acting erratically,

in an obviously distressed manner in the area of the train tracks, while still on the Premises Liability

Defendant's property, yet did nothing while making these observations, did not call the police, go

to the Plaintiff's Decedent to discuss his purpose for being there in the area of the tracks, or prevent

him from accessing the tracks.

98. Further, the engineer in charge of the train had a duty to observe and be cautions of

pedestrians in the area, to signal his horn and to reduce his speed and apply his brakes in order to

avoid posing a harm to pedestrians who were known to be and who were in fact present on and in

the area of the tracks.

99. Additionally, the engineer in charge of the train had a duty to refrain from the

negligent, careless, reckless, willful and wanton operation of the train in order to avoid contact

with pedestrians in the area of the train and tracks.

100. SEPTA, acting through their agents and/or employees, including their engineer

failed to do so, which caused and/or contributed to the Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death.

101. This Plaintiff's Decedent's wrongful death resulted solely from the negligent,

careless, reckless, willful, and/or wanton conduct of the SEPTA Defendants, and/or the negligent,

careless, reckless, and outrageous conduct, and the other liability producing conduct, including but

not limited to the strict liability of the Social Media Defendants acting jointly and/or severally and

was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the Plaintiff.

102. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants

acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's decedent John Michael Sullivan died on January 4, 2023.

- 103. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, the Plaintiff's Decedent suffered great conscious physical pain and suffering, trauma, mental anguish, embarrassment and humiliation prior to her death and did suffer consciously for several days prior to her wrongful death.
- 104. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's Decedent's daily activities, occupation and usual life's pleasures were forever extinguished.
- 105. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, Plaintiff's Decedent's earnings, earning capacity and employment opportunities were terminated.
- 106. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct described above by the Defendants acting jointly and/or severally, the Estate of John Michael Sullivan incurred liability for medical services, funeral and household expenses.

COUNT I

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5

NEGLIGENCE

- 107. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully herein.
- 108. The negligence and carelessness of the Social Media Defendants, their agents, servants, workmen, and/or employees, consists of, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Failure to design, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, sell and install appropriate safety systems on the Defendant's social media applications;

- b. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) that social media is addictive;
- c. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) of the dangers of contact by unknown users through the direct messaging component of the application including sextortion;
- d. Failure to warn users of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) of the existence and prevalence of sextortion on their application through the direct messaging component of the application;
- e. Failure to implement "technical signals" to identify sextorters and their accounts to prevent these sextorters from opening and operating accounts solely for the purpose of conduction illegal sextortion activity;
- f. Failure to warn users that sextortion accounts had been regularly identified and shut down on the application;
- g. Failure to warn users of the characteristics of a sextortion scam message including "highly stylized photos" and "people who exceptionally good looking" or who have "never sent you a message before" despite knowledge that such account characteristics are associated with sextortion activity;
- h. Failure to conduct sufficient investigation into the creation and operation of accounts originated in suspicious locations, including but not limited to Nigeria, which had characteristics of fraudulent or illegal accounts such as; new users sending mass messages to "many, many" users outside of their country or geographic area, "highly stylized photos" and "people who exceptionally good looking" or who have "never sent you a message before"; have little to no followers, comments on their photos, likes on their photos and/or posts; and/or other classic indicators of fraudulent account creation;
- i. Failure to monitor or prevent the creation of accounts with such characteristics as addressed above, or to prevent the operation of same;
- j. Failure to monitor or prevent the creation of, or prevent the operation of accounts of individuals, IP addresses, or other characteristics which the Defendants knew or should have known had previously been associated with account activity which was identified, or should have been identified as fraudulent;
- k. Allowing the creation of numerous and/or countless accounts by individuals or groups of individuals which can only be used for fraudulent or criminal activity;

- 1. Otherwise require verification from the account creator and/or operator that would ensure the account is being created by a real person for a non-criminal and/or fraudulent purpose when creating an account with the characteristics set forth above in these sub-paragraphs;
- m. Failure to design and/or implement warnings before a user is permitted to send compromising images, including reminders and/or warnings to users that, among other things, the recipient user may not be who they say they are; may be a criminal; may use the images for sextortion; may forward the images or publish them without your consent and/or knowledge; and that the users profile and account should be viewed carefully in case they're not who they say they are;
- n. Failure to otherwise design and/or implement other reasonable nudity protection measures and/or warnings;
- o. Failure to provide a quick dedicated option for help and/or immediate resource to an individual who has been contacted through the application with threats to share private images;
- p. Failure to warn users when receiving messages from accounts with characteristics identified herein and with other characteristics suspicious for fraudulent/ criminal activity that such accounts may be associated with fraudulent activity, originate outside the country and/or from suspicious areas;
- q. Failure to warn users using geofencing of the location of direct messages;
- r. Failure to reasonably restrict the sharing of nude images;
- s. Failure to supply and/or post adequate notices or warnings of the risks and dangers of the product in the materials which describe the operation and use of the products and in the applications themselves;
- t. Failure to place or install warning notices in an obvious and/or conspicuous place in the application;
- u. Failure to manufacture, fabricate, assemble, sell and distribute products with adequate safety materials, manuals, instructions, markings, signs, warnings and safety devices;
- v. Failure to design algorithms to limit addictive engagement;
- w. Failure to warn of the health effects of use and extended use of the application;

- x. Failure to implement default protective limits regarding the time and length and frequency of use;
- y. Failure to implement opt-in restrictions to the length and frequency of use;
- z. Failure to implement self-limiting tools, including but not limited to session time notifications warnings, or reports;
- aa. Failure to create a beginning and end to a user's feed;
- bb. Failure to implement appropriate geofencing that would warn users when messages were coming from out of the country, or from specific suspicious areas;
- cc. Distributing defective products to the general public;
- dd. Advertising a defective product to the general public;
- ee. Failure to assemble the products so as to prevent injuries to the Plaintiff's Decedent and other users;
- ff. Failure to design a product with adequate materials and safety devices;
- gg. Failure to inspect said products prior to the sale, distribution or purchase of said product.
- 109. Prior to placing these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) into the stream of commerce, Defendants knew or should have known with adequate design, inspection and/or testing that these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were in a defective and dangerous condition and that because of these defects, these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) could not be used safely for the purposes for which they were intended. Defendants also knew that continued offering and use of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) would result in further injuries to persons such as Plaintiff's Decedent.
- 110. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and outrageous conduct of the Social Media Defendants its agents, servants, workmen, and/or employees, as set forth herein was the proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to the Plaintiff's Decedent and expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5 jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT II

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5

STRICT LIABILITY

- 111. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully at length herein.
- 112. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants' social media applications, Instagram and Snap were advertised, marketed, manufactured, designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce by the Social Media Defendants during and in the ordinary course of their business.
- 113. These social media application products as well as their components (including their algorithms and any associated warnings) did reach the Plaintiff's Decedent, an intended foreseeable user and cause injuries and the wrongful death in a condition substantially unchanged from that in which they were advertised, marketed, manufactured, designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce.
- 114. The injuries, damages and wrongful death sustained by the Plaintiff's Decedent as set forth above, were the direct result of the defective and dangerous conditions existing at the time

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of the advertising, marketing, design, manufacture, fabrication, assembly, sale and/or distribution

by the Social Media Defendants, including without limitation that the social media application

products did not contain an adequate sufficient design protections to prevent individuals such as

the sextortionists from Nigeria from utilizing these applications to widely target victims such as

the Plaintiff's Decedent and many others with mass automated messages targeted by their age,

location around schools and other vulnerable areas from another country known to be associated

with high degrees of illegal and fraudulent criminal extortion activity and/or otherwise warn users

about these dangers which were known to the Defendants for a sufficient period of time in advance

of the incident involving the Plaintiff's Decedent.

115. Defendants are strictly liable pursuant to Section 402(a) of the Restatement of

Torts, Second as said products were defective and unreasonably dangerous at the time they were

distributed and Defendants failed to warn Plaintiff's Decedent, and other foreseeable users of the

aforementioned defects and dangers.

116. Prior to the incident involving the Plaintiff's Decedent and/or the use of social

media application products, the Social Media Defendants knew or should have known with

adequate design, inspection and/or testing that the products were in a defective and dangerous

condition and that because of the defects, the products could not be used safely for the purposes

for which they were intended. Defendants also knew that continued offering for use of the products

would result in further injuries to persons such as Plaintiff.

117. The social media application products, as advertised, marketed, manufactured,

designed, fabricated, assembled, sold, distributed, and/or otherwise placed into the stream of

commerce by the Social Media Defendants also failed to contain proper warnings and instructions

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regarding the use of and all dangers associated with the use and operation of these products.

Control No.: 2501541

118. The social media application products were also defective due to inadequate

warnings or instructions because, after the manufacturer knew or should have known of the risk of

injury (including the risk of exposure to the highly pervasive fraudulent criminal activity, scams,

and/or sextortion) to users and/or persons similarly situated as the Plaintiff, Defendants failed to

provide adequate warnings to users and persons subjected to these products (i.e., Instagram and

Snap) as set forth at length above regarding the risks of sextortion for the reasons set forth at length

above and herein, and continued to advertise, market, manufacture, design, fabricate, assemble,

sell, distribute and/or otherwise place into the stream of commerce these products, i.e., Instagram

and Snap.

119. The dangers of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) that caused and/or

contributed to Plaintiff's Decedent's death were unknowable and unacceptable to the average or

ordinary consumer, and therefore they failed to satisfy the Customer Expectation Test.

120. A reasonable person would conclude the probability and seriousness of the harms

caused by the defectiveness of these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) as set forth above,

outweighed the burden or costs of taking precautions, and therefore they failed to satisfy the Risk-

Utility test.

121. As a result of the aforementioned defects, and/or other dangerous propensities of

the products, including improper warnings and instructions on these products (i.e., Instagram and

Snap) and in the operations/use manuals, the Plaintiff's Decedent was caused to sustain severe

injuries, damages and suffer a wrongful death as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael

Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc.,

Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook

Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5

jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT III

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. META PLATFORMS, INC., F/K/A FACEBOOK, INC., FACEBOOK HOLDINGS, LLC, FACEBOOK OPERATIONS, LLC, FACEBOOK PAYMENTS, INC., FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, INSTAGRAM, LLC, SNAP, INC., JOHN DOE, INC., 1-5 AND JOHN DOE CORP., 1-5

BREACH OF WARRANTY

- 122. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding as if the same were set forth fully herein.
- 123. The Social Media Defendants expressly and impliedly warranted the product was safe and fit for the particular purpose for which they were made.
- 124. The Social Media Defendants' breach of contract/warranty consisted, *inter alia*, of selling defective and dangerous products.
- 125. Plaintiff's Decedent relied on the skill, judgment, representations, and foregoing implied and express warranties of the Social Media Defendants. Said warranties and representations were false in that the aforementioned these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were not safe; were un-merchantable; and were unfit for the ordinary purpose and uses for which they were intended and caused Plaintiff's injuries.
- 126. Prior to the time the these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were used by Plaintiff's Decedent, the Social Media Defendants had implied warranted to the general public that said these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were of merchantable quality and safe and fit for the use for which they were intended.
- 127. The general public, Plaintiff's Decedent are unskilled in the research, manufacture, design, fabrications, assembly, sale and/or distribution of the aforementioned these products (i.e.,

Instagram and Snap) and reasonably relied on the skill, judgment and implied warranty of the Social Media Defendants in using the aforementioned these products (i.e., Instagram and Snap).

- 128. These products (i.e., Instagram and Snap) were neither safe for their intended use nor of merchantable quality as warranted by the Social Media Defendants, in that they had dangerous propensities when put to their intended use and would cause severe injuries to the users.
- 129. The aforementioned breach of warranty was the proximate cause of the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff's Decedent as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5, and John Doe Corp 1-5 jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT IV JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. SEPTA AND ROBERT MILSON NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND WILLFUL/WANTON CONDUCT

- 130. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length.
- 131. Defendants were aware that these train tracks established an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity.
- 132. Defendants were aware of the existence of numerous other pedestrian strikes on the tracks by trains in this vicinity, yet did nothing to obstruct access to the tracks on their property or safely control the movement of the train despite this knowledge.

- 133. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or willful/ wanton conduct of Defendants consisted of, but it not limited to:
 - a. Failure to exercise reasonable care to eliminate the danger or otherwise to protect Plaintiff's Decedent.
 - b. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to conduct and operate the train in a safe manner, including traveling at speeds in excess of speed limits in place by law;
 - c. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to monitor the safety of pedestrians and train passengers in and around the tracks where this incident occurred;
 - d. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians on the tracks;
 - e. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians on the tracks in a reasonable time;
 - f. failure to apply speed limiting devices including but not limited to brakes in sufficient time so as to avoid striking the Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - g. failure to brakes apply speed limiting devices including but not limited to brakes in sufficient time so as to provide the Plaintiff's Decedent reasonable opportunity to take evasive action and avoid being struck;
 - h. failure to slow the train down after its employee(s), agents and/or ostensible agents witnessed Plaintiff's Decedent on the tracks in the foreground as the train approached the location of the incident;
 - i. failure to stop the train in time to avoid striking Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - j. failure to blow the whistle of the train to warn Plaintiff's Decedent of impending danger;
 - k. failure to install any kind of barriers and/or fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - failure to repair the dangerous condition of the lack of fencing surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;

- m. failure to post warning signs along the train tracks;
- n. failure to repair holes in fences surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;
- o. failure to install fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
- p. creating a dangerous condition;
- q. creating an attractive nuisance;
- r. operating the train at too great of a speed approaching the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge of the risks of pedestrians on the tracks;
- s. failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid injuring others;
- t. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on the risks associated with pedestrians on the tracks;
- u. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on how to safely observe pedestrians on the train tracks;
- v. failure to warn its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor of the existence of prior complaints or knowledge on behalf of SEPTA of pedestrians on the train tracks in the vicinity of the location of the incident;
- w. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on how to use horns and/or audio warning devices; and
- x. failure to inspect the condition of the fences in the area of the tracks where the incident occurred.

41. The negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendants as set forth herein was a proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to Plaintiff's Decedent, John Michael Sullivan and the expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants SEPTA, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT V

JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. BRYNER CHEVROLET, INC., D/B/A BRYNER CHEVROLET, DBP PARTNERS, LP, DB PETE, INC., JOHN DOE INC., 5-10, KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN, HOPKINS FORD, INC., KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, LP, KENNEDY REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, LLC, JOHN DOE CORP., 5-10

NEGLIGENCE, RECKLESSNESS, AND WILLFUL/WANTON CONDUCT

- 134. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length.
- 135. It is alleged and therefore averred that prior to January 4, 2023, Defendants had actual knowledge of the dangers associated with the proximity of their property and business to the exposed and unfenced train tracks adjacent to their property.
- 136. Defendants were aware that these train tracks established an attractive nuisance to individuals in the area and/or proximity.
- 137. Defendants were aware of the existence of numerous other pedestrian strikes on the tracks by trains yet did nothing to obstruct access to the tracks on their property.
- 138. Defendants were aware of the presence of the Plaintiff's Decedent on their property for a sufficient period of time in which they observed him wandering in a distressed fashion in the

area of the train tracks to take reasonable steps to intervene and prevent him from being struck by the train.

- 139. The negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or willful/ wanton conduct of Defendants consisted of, but it not limited to:
 - a. Failure to exercise reasonable care to eliminate the danger or otherwise to protect Plaintiff's Decedent.
 - b. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to monitor the safety of pedestrians in and around the tracks where this incident occurred:
 - c. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians in the area of the train tracks;
 - d. failure of its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants to observe pedestrians in and around the tracks in a reasonable time;
 - e. failure to install any kind of barriers and/or fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - f. failure to repair the dangerous condition of the lack of fencing surrounding the tracks in and around the tracks where the incident occurred despite knowledge pedestrians were accessing the train tracks from the locations which lacked fencing;
 - g. failure to post warning signs along the train tracks;
 - h. failure to install fencing along its tracks in the immediate areas surrounding the tracks where the incident occurred to prevent anticipated pedestrians from entering the tracks;
 - i. failure to monitor surveillance cameras;
 - j. failure to intervene with the Plaintiff's Decedent;
 - k. failure to restrict Plaintiff's Decedent from accessing the tracks;
 - 1. failure to remove the Plaintiff's Decedent from the area of the tracks;
 - m. failure to take reasonable steps to protect the Plaintiff's Decedent from the hazard associated with the unfenced tracks;

- n. creating a dangerous condition;
- o. creating an attractive nuisance;
- p. observing the Plaintiff's Decedent on their property, acting nervously, scared, and distressed in the area of the train tracks for a significant period of time before he was struck and failing to intervene, call the police, or make contact with the Plaintiff's Decedent;
- q. failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid injuring others;
- r. failure to properly train its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, including but not limited to its Engineer and Conductor on the risks associated with pedestrians on the tracks;
- s. failure to warn its employees, agents, ostensible agents and servants, of the existence of prior complaints or knowledge of pedestrians on the train tracks in the vicinity of the location of the incident; and
- t. failure to inspect the condition of the fences in the area of the tracks where the incident occurred.
- 42. The negligence and/or carelessness of the Defendants as set forth herein was a proximate and sole cause of the injuries and damages to Plaintiff's Decedent, John Michael Sullivan and the expenses incurred as set forth above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, John Doe Corp 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT VI JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. ALL DEFENDANTS WRONGFUL DEATH

- 50. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth herein at length.
- 51. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the Wrongful Death Act 42 Pa. C.S.A. Section 8301 and claims all damages recoverable under the Pennsylvania Wrongful Death Act.
- 52. The names and last known addresses of all persons who may be entitled by law to recover damages, as well as their relationship to Decedent John Michael Sullivan are as follows:
 - a. James Sullivan, Jr., father619 Edgley AvenueGlenside, PA 19038
 - Kathleen Sullivan, mother619 Edgley AvenueGlenside, PA 19038
- 53. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, the Decedent's Wrongful Death beneficiaries have been, continue to be, and will in the future be deprived of his counsel, services, companionship and society.
- 54. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' liability producing conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, John Michael Sullivan's Wrongful Death beneficiaries suffered, are suffering and will, for an indefinite period of time in the future, suffer damages, injuries and losses, including but not limited to, a loss of financial support, and the beneficiaries have been wrongfully deprived of the contributions they would have received from him, including monies which he would have provided for items such as clothing, food, shelter, medical care, education and entertainment, recreation and gifts
- 55. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent and/or careless conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, John Michael Sullivan's Wrongful Death beneficiaries have been caused to incur and pay various expenses from medical treatment, hospital

care, custodial care, nursing care and medications, and funeral and other expenses related to his death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5 and John Doe Corp., 1-5, SEPTA, Robert Milson, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, and John Doe Corp 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

COUNT VII JAMES SULLIVAN, JR., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN VS. ALL DEFENDANTS SURVIVAL ACTION

- 56. Plaintiff reavers and incorporates the preceding paragraphs as though set forth herein at length.
- 57. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, by virtue of the Survival Act, 42 Pa.C.S.A. §8302, and claims all benefits of the Survival Act on behalf of John Michael Sullivan's Estate and other persons entitled to recover under law.
- 58. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' liability producing conduct as set forth above, which is incorporated herein, Plaintiff claims on behalf of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, all damages suffered by the Estate by reason of the death of John Michael Sullivan, including without limit the generality of the following: the severe injuries to John

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Michael Sullivan which resulted in his death; the anxiety, horror, fear of impending death, mental disturbance, pain, suffering and other tangible losses which John Michael Sullivan suffered prior to his death, the loss of past, present, and future earning capacity suffered by John Michael Sullivan from the date of his death until the time in the future he would have lived had he not died as a result of the injuries he sustained; expenses for medical care, the loss and total limitation and deprivation of his normal activities until the time of his death.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff James Sullivan Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan, demands judgment against Defendants, Meta Platforms, Inc., f/k/a Facebook, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Facebook Operations, LLC, Facebooks Payments, Inc., Facebook Technologies, LLC, Instagram, LLC, SNAP, Inc., John Doe, Inc., 1-5 and John Doe Corp., 1-5, SEPTA, Robert Milson, Bryner Chevrolet, Inc., d/b/a Bryner Chevrolet, DBP Partners, LP., DB Pete Inc., John Doe Inc., 5-10, John Kennedy Ford of Jenkintown, Hopkins Ford, Inc., Kennedy Real Estate Associates, LP, Kennedy Real Estate Management Associates, LLC, and John Doe Corp. 5-10, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars in compensatory damages, punitive damages, (against the Social Media Defendants only), costs and such other further relief the court shall deem appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

STAMPONE O'BRIEN DILSHEIMER LAW

BY: /s/
KEVIN P. O'BRIEN, ESQUIRE
TYLER STAMPONE, ESQUIRE
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DICELLO LEVITT

BY: /s/
DIANDRA DEBROSSE, ESQUIRE
ELI HARE, ESQUIRE

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VERIFICATION

James Sullivan, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan states that he is the Plaintiff herein, that he is acquainted with the facts set forth in the foregoing pleading, that the same are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge and belief and that this statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.



James Sullivan, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of John Michael Sullivan

Dated 12/20/2024

EXHIBIT A

SHORT CERTIFICATE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I, D. Bruce Hanes, Register of Wills in the County of Montgomery, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 10th day of April 2023 Letters of Administration on the Estate of JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN,

deceased, were granted to JAMES SULLIVAN JR

having first been qualified well and truly to administer the same. And I further certify that no revocation of said Letters appears of record in my office.

File number: 46-2023-X1168

Date of Death: 1/4/2023

Social Security Number: 200-80-9366

Given under my hand and seal of office this 10th day of April 2023

Montgomery County Register of Wills





A \$5 Convenience fee will be added to the transaction at checkout.

Case Description

Case ID: 241202765

Case Caption: ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL SULLIVAN ETAL VS META PLATF

Filing Date: Monday, December 23rd, 2024

Court: MAJOR JURY-COMPLEX

Location: CITY HALL

Jury: JURY

Case Type: PRODUCT LIABILITY

Status: WAITING TO LIST CASE MGMT CONF

Related Cases

No related cases were found.

Case Event Schedule

No case events were found.

Case motions

Motion	Assign/Date	Control No	Date/Received	Judge
PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS	pending	25015411	27-JAN-2025	COHEN, DENIS P

Case Parties

Seq#	Assoc	Expn Date	Туре	Name
1			ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	OBRIEN, KEVIN PATRICK
Address:	500 COTTMAN AVE. CHELTENHAM PA 19012 (215)663-0400 kobrien@stamponelaw.com	Aliases:	none	
2	1		ADMINISTRATOR - PLAINTIFF	SULLIVAN JR., JAMES
Address:	619 EDGLEY AVENUE GLENSIDE PA 19038	Aliases:	none	

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			ir.	
3			DEFENDANT	SNAP INC
Address:	2772 DONALD DOUGLASS LOOP NORT SANTA MONICA CA 90405	Aliases:	none	
				71
4			DEFENDANT	DOE 1-5, JOHN
Address:	000 PHILADELPHIA PA 000000	Aliases:	none	
5			DEFENDANT	JOHN DOE CORP 1-
				5
Address:	PHILADELPHIA PA 000000	Aliases:	none	
			<u> </u>	1
6	2	3	DEFENDANT	SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Address:	1234 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19107	Aliases:	SEPTA	
7	2	3	DEFENDANT	MILSON, ROBERT
Address:	1234 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19107	Aliases:	none	
8	2	6	DEFENDANT	BRYNER CHEVROLET INC
Address:	1750 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:	BRYNER CHEVRO	LET
9	2	3	DEFENDANT	DBP PARTNERS LP
	1750 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:		BBI TARRING EI
10			DEFENDANT	DB PETE INC
Address:	1750 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:	none	
			DEECN DAY -	
11			DEFENDANT	JOHN DOE INC 5-10

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				•
Address:	000 PHILADELPHIA PA 00000	Aliases:	none	
12			DEFENDANT	JOHN KENNEDY FORD OF JENKINTOWN
Address:	1650 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:	none	
13	1		PLAINTIFF	SULLIVAN ESTATE OFJOHN MICHAEL
Address:	619 EDGLEY AVENUE GLENSIDE PA 19038	Aliases:	none	
14			DEFENDANT	HOPKINS FORD INC
Address:	1650 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:	none	<u> </u>
15			DEFENDANT	KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES LP
Address:	1650 THE FAIRWAY JENKINTOWN PA 19046	Aliases:	none	
			1	
16			DEFENDANT	KENNEDY REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES MANAGEMENT LLC
Address:	620 BUSTLETON PIKE FEASTERVILLE TREVOSE PA 19053	Aliases:	none	T.
17			DEFENDANT	JOHN DOE CORP 5- 10
Address:	000 PHILADELPHIA PA 00000	Aliases:	none	
18			DEFENDANT	META PLATFORMS INC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	FACEBOOK INC F	(A
	11	1		

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19			DEFENDANT	FACEBOOK HOLDINGS LLC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	none	
				1
20			DEFENDANT	FACEBOOK OPERATIONS LLC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	none	
				V
21			DEFENDANT	FACEBOOK PAYMENTS INC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	none	
				1
22			DEFENDANT	FACEBOOK TECHNOLOGIES LLC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	none	
23			DEFENDANT	INSTAGRAM LLC
Address:	1 HACKER WAY MENLO PARK CA 94025	Aliases:	none	
24	1		ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	STAMPONE, TYLER J
Address:	STAMPONE LAW 500 COTTMAN AVE CHELTENHAM PA 19012 (215)663-0400 TStampone@stamponelaw.com	Aliases:	none	
25			TEAM LEADER	COHEN, DENIS P
Address:	656 CITY HALL PHILADELPHIA PA 19107	Aliases:	none	-1
26			ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT	FROMMER, BENJAMIN C

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Address:	THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER 1600 JFK BLVD SUITE 1060 PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 (215)564-2928 bfrommer@tthlaw.com	Aliases:	none	
27	26		ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT	WILLIAMS, CHELSEA A
Address:	THOMAS, THOMAS & HAFER, LLP 4 PENN CENTER, SUITE 1060 1600 JFK BOULEVARD PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 (267)861-7599 cwilliams@tthlaw.com	Aliases:	none	
28			ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT	NALENCZ, TARA G
Address:	1234 MARKET STREET, 5TH FLOOR OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL SEPTA PHILADELPHIA PA 19107 (215)580-7565 tnalencz@septa.org	Aliases:	none	

Docket Entries

Filing Date/Time	Docket Type	Filing Party		Disposition Amount	
23-DEC-2024 03:17 PM	ACTIVE CASE				
Docket Entry:					
23-DEC-2024 03:17 PM	COMMENCEMENT CIVIL ACTION JURY	OBRIEN, KEV PATRICK	VIN		
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the documed Final Cover	ents	Click HE related to	RE to purchase all documents of this one docket entry	
Docket Entry:	none.				

23-DEC-2024 03:17 PM	COMPLAINT FILED NOTICE GIVEN	OBRIEN, KEVIN PATRICK			
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the documents Sullivan Complaint.pdf	nents Click H	ERE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry		
Docket Entry:	COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE TO DEFEND WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1018.1 FILED.				
23-DEC-2024 03:17 PM	JURY TRIAL PERFECTED	OBRIEN, KEVIN PATRICK			
Docket Entry:	12 JURORS REQUESTED.	J.	1		
23-DEC-2024 03:17 PM	WAITING TO LIST CASE MGMT CONF	OBRIEN, KEVIN PATRICK			
Docket Entry:	none.				
31-DEC-2024 09:09 AM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED				
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum SEPTA full.pdf	nents Click H	ERE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry		
Docket Entry:	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT AUTHORI FILED.				
31-DEC-2024 09:10 AM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED				
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the document Milson Full aff.pdf		ERE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry		
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT BY PERSONAL SERVICE ON 12/30/2		N ROBERT MILSON		
09-JAN-2025 02:20 PM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED				
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the document 20250109 140435 006149 Part4.pdf		ERE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry		

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Ous	2.23-CV-00430-RBH Document 1-4	I IIEU UI/ZI	725 Tage	: 170 01 172
Docket Entry:	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT ESTATE ASSOCIATES LP BY SHERI FILED.			
09-JAN-2025 02:22 PM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED			
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum 20250109_140435_006149_Part5.pdf	ents	Click HE related t	RE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT INC BY SHERIFF SERVICE MONTGO			
09-JAN-2025 02:24 PM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED			
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum 20250109_140435_006149_Part6.pdf	ents	Click HE related t	RE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry
Docket Entry:	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT FORD OF JENKINTOWN BY SHERIF FILED.			
09-JAN-2025 02:25 PM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED			
Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum 20250109 140435 006149 Part7.pdf	ents	Click HE related t	RE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT SHERIFF SERVICE MONTGOMERY			N DB PETE INC BY
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Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum 20250109 140435 006149 Part8.pdf	ents	Click HE related t	RE to purchase all documents to this one docket entry
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF PLAINT LP BY SHERIFF SERVICE MONTGO			
09-JAN-2025 02:29 PM	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE FILED			
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02:58 PM Documents: 3.4	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docume 250114_145424_006170.pdf	ents	Click HE			
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16-JAN-2025 AF 02:18 PM		OBRIEN, KE' PATRICK	VIN			
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Docket PA						
21-JAN-2025 EN 01:10 PM		FROMMER, BENJAMIN C	;			
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	NTRY OF APPEARANCE OF CHELS ROMMER FILED. (FILED ON BEHAL					
22-JAN-2025 EN 05:23 PM	ll l	FROMMER, BENJAMIN C	;			
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24-JAN-2025 EN 02:20 PM	NTRY OF APPEARANCE	NALENCZ, T	ARA G			

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Documents:	Click link(s) to preview/purchase the docum SEPTA EOA-Sullivan-Estate.pdf	ents	Click HE related to	RE to purchase all documents o this one docket entry	
Docket Entry:	ROBERT MILSON AND SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSIT				
27-JAN-2025 09:12 AM	PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS	FROMMER, BENJAMIN C			
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Docket Entry:	"RESPONSE DATE DATE 11/18/70/5 (EU ED DIN BEHALE DE DBP PARTNERS LP AND				

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